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POST WORLD OF SPORT
 Knicks win home opener
 It's all in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

US goes to polls

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton held a strong lead over Republican challenger Bob Dole in opinion polls on the eve of today's presidential election. But Republicans appeared to be gaining momentum in their effort to retain control of Congress.

In the House of Representatives, it would show — for the first time since 1930 — that the Republicans could hold a majority in the 435-seat chamber for more than two years.

Clinton — badly needs a Democratic majority in both chambers in order to push his legislation through Congress without having to resort to painful political compromises with the conservative Republican majority.

The president spent the last several days of the campaign in a swing through Florida, New Jersey, Maine, Massachusetts, Ohio, Kentucky, Iowa and South Dakota before ending his odyssey in his home town of Little Rock, Arkansas, in the wee hours of Election Day.

Polls show Clinton 10-13 percentage points ahead of Dole on the final day of campaigning. More election coverage, Page 4



US President Bill Clinton greets supporters while on the campaign trail in Manchester, New Hampshire, yesterday, the day before the US goes to the polls.

New information enables pinpoint security checks

NEW information about a terrorist attack has enabled the security forces to modify slightly the way checks have been carried out, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday.

LIAT COLLINS and BILL HUTMAN
 catching up with some of the [terror] cell." He warned, however, that there is no such thing as a complete guarantee and called on the public to remain alert.

separation would allow Israel to monitor who is entering the country. "Being mixed together makes the situation more difficult," he said, adding that closures cannot completely prevent infiltrations.

Orient House issue keeps EU troika away

THE three-member rotating leadership of the European Union (EU), known as the troika, will not hold talks here on Sunday due to the government's refusal to allow them to visit Orient House.

DAVID MAKOVSKY
 Gaza. "It is not such a catastrophe that they are not coming," a senior Foreign Ministry official said. "They might be meeting Foreign Minister [David] Levy at the Cairo economic summit a day or two later. Neither they nor we are seeking confrontation. There will be Israeli officials to greet them when they arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport before they go to Gaza."

The government was hoping that the troika would follow in the footsteps of British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, neither of whom visited Orient House.

Benizri: Kopatch's Torah portion must go

MICHAL YUDELMAN
 "If Gil Kopatch goes, I go," TV variety show host Yair Lapid said yesterday, after MK Shlomo Benizri (Shas) demanded that the popular segment be immediately removed from his highly rated Friday night program on Channel 1.



only the conservative parts? I think those who wrote the Bible were closer to Kopatch and my age and way of thinking than that of today's rabbis. They problem is that they [the religious] don't want secular people to read the Bible.

opinion, that's how we talk today, that's my language and my intention is to bring the portion closer to the viewers."

Benizri threatened that if "that wicked clown" Kopatch isn't stopped, he would see to it that the Knesset Finance Committee cut off the channel's funding. He also hinted at a coalition crisis.

Gil Kopatch reads from his text in Yair Lapid's Friday night program on Channel 1.
 (Courtesy Channel 1, photo: Brian Bender)

Yishmael in the previous chapter, and related that to the killing of Palestinian boy Hilmi Shoushi. Lapid denied the segment is meant to insult or mock anyone.

Israel Broadcasting Authority Director-General Mordechai Kirschenbaum said Kopatch's item will remain part of the Lapid show. He said Benizri's threat to link the IBA budget to this issue demonstrates how important it is to have an independent broadcasting authority which doesn't depend on the state budget.

In last Friday's segment, Kopatch described Sarah's picking on Hagar, her Egyptian maid, telling her: "You don't clean properly; you're a lousy maid. Which means, Sarah will be Sarah, whether it's Sarah our mother or Sarah Netanyahu."

Commenting on Benizri's charges of the use of obscene or crude expressions, Lapid said the Bible "has some of the most astounding, detailed sexual scenes. Do they expect us to read

Mr. Henk S. Salomon and daughter Tamar Holland to Israel to attend the dedication ceremony of the **ANDRIES SALOMON WING** of the Day Care Center for Babies and Toddlers of the Alyn Hospital

Assad to US: I will try to block terror

DAVID MAKOVSKY and agencies

SYRIAN President Hafez Assad recently told US Secretary of State Warren Christopher that Damascus will take measures to prevent terror attacks inside Israel, diplomatic sources indicated last night.

This led Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to announce today that security measures were being slightly eased. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, said that the messages Israel had conveyed to Syria had led to an easing of tensions.

"We sent calming messages via the Americans, the Russians and the French," Netanyahu said, "and I think there has been a lowering of tensions."

Israel also requested that Germany make a similar intervention with Iran, but it remains unclear if it received a reply.

Netanyahu also reiterated that Israel is ready for peace talks with Syria.

"Christopher phoned Assad, and Assad gave a good response. There is a reason why Kahalani said what he did today," a diplomatic source said.

This was confirmed by other sources. The phone call took place as a response to Israel's request last Friday that the US intervene to urge Syria to use its influence with the Damascus-based Islamic Jihad and other Islamic militants. Israel fears a bombing attack to commemorate last year's assassination of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shkaki. Syria blames Israel for Shkaki's killing.

It may be noted that in the past Assad has given mixed responses to US requests to halt violence. At some times when he has received appeals by third parties, including the US, to halt Hizbullah attacks in southern Lebanon, Assad has rebuffed them by saying that the group has the right of resistance to "Israeli occupation."

At other times, when he believed Hizbullah attacks could interfere with peace talks, he has gone so far as to hold up Iranian arms shipments arriving in Damascus airport that are designated for Hizbullah.

In Amman, King Hussein spoke by telephone with Assad to discuss the peace process and bilateral issues. The call came after Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met in Damascus to discuss the diplomatic efforts being made to advance the peace process.

Assad said yesterday he does not rule out the possibility of an Israeli attack against Syria or Lebanon and accused Netanyahu of working against peace.

Foreign Minister David Levy swiftly reacted to Assad's comments, saying Israel has no intention of attacking Syria.

"Israel has said time and again, through the various channels and also in public, that it has no intention of attacking Syria," Levy told Israel Radio.

"On the contrary [Israel] is interested in reducing the level of tension and creating an atmosphere conducive to renewing peace talks," Levy said.

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Settlers: Government has detention orders ready for Kiryat Arba extremists

A "PILE" of administration detention orders against suspected extremists in Kiryat Arba and the Hebron settlement is ready and just waiting for signatures, Kiryat Arba spokesman Tsuri Popovitch said yesterday.

Popovitch, who would not reveal the source of this information, said the settlement is opposed to these types of measures and that if the security services have information that someone is planning something illegal, they should indict that person and arrest him.

"Administrative detention orders are just a reaction to public pressure," he said.

He added that "those who have orders issued against them know they are being watched" and as a result are unlikely to take any extreme action in an attempt to halt redeployment in Hebron, Popovitch said.

Reports of inevitable administration detention orders came on the heels of a call by Labor MKs yesterday to disengage extremists from Hebron "before it is too late." The calls were variously made by Ehud Barak, Ra'anan

HERB KEINON

Cohen and Haim Ramon. A similar call was made last week by Likud MK Michael Eitan.

Meanwhile, work began yesterday in Hebron on the construction of a joint Palestinian-Israeli liaison office, which brought on a protest from settlement leaders there. Noam Amon, head of the Jewish community in Hebron, said that it is absurd that the army is "withdrawing" from Hebron before a formal agreement is signed.

"The army is trying to dictate terms to the politicians, before anything has been signed," he said.

The site is located on the road between Beit Hadassah and Tel Rumeida. Amon said the site is a few hundred meters from the route children from the settlement take to school, "and we will not accept a situation where they have to walk past PLO officers."

The settlement, meanwhile, has begun fundraising to build a new apartment complex

in Avraham Avinu, which will house six apartments and a "public building." Amon said that the complex has all the necessary permits and is waiting for the signature of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

"There should be no problem," Amon said cynically. "The complex is planned for the Jewish ghetto."

In a related development, a meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza has been rescheduled for Thursday. A cancellation of the first meeting, which was to take place last week, prompted the council to call a sit-in protest scheduled for tomorrow in front of the Prime Minister's Office. The council says that Netanyahu is purposely dragging his feet on construction in the settlements.

Ma'aleh Admunim Mayor Benny Kashriel, deputy chairman of the council, said that the organization has not yet decided whether to go ahead with the protest.



Members of the British Federation of Zionist Youth and local Scouts gather at Mt. Herzl yesterday, on the anniversary of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, to collect signatures on a petition calling for democracy and tolerance.

Abu Ghosh residents say PA agents beat them

BILL HUTMAN

EIGHT residents of the Israeli-Arab village of Abu Ghosh said they were held Sunday evening in Ramallah by Palestinian security agents, who beat them and demanded they give information on villagers who served in Israeli security forces, according to testimony the residents gave police.

According to the testimony, several of the residents, in their late teens and early twenties, managed to escape during the night, despite being chased by gun-firing security agents. The others were released yesterday morning.

In a statement released last night, Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Boaz Goldenberg said the incident was under investigation and that a complaint was filed with the Palestinian Authority. He said the eight residents also faced charges for entering a closed military zone.

The night identified the assailants as members of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service headed by Jibril Rajoub, one of the Palestinian negotiators in the peace talks, who is behind PA efforts to crack down on

Palestinian collaborators with Israel.

The residents of Abu Ghosh, a Jerusalem Corridor village, said that on Sunday they drove to Beitunya, just outside of Ramallah, to visit relatives. They were stopped by PA security agents in Ramallah while on their way home.

The residents described being badly by the agents, who demanded they give them the names of villagers who served in the police and army.

A village notable, who asked not to be named, questioned their story, saying that several members of the group were known as "troublemakers," who might have made up the story just to gain publicity for themselves.

Three of the residents were questioned yesterday by police. The other five have been summoned for questioning today, Goldenberg, in the statement released late last night, offered no explanation of why police had not gone public with the story until after the Abu Ghosh residents contacted journalists.

Palestinian group calls for evicting Hebron settlers

BILL HUTMAN

A LEADING Palestinian human-rights group yesterday called for Jews to be evicted from Hebron and charged that there has been an increase in attacks by settlers on Palestinians since the election.

"During the last four months, since the Netanyahu government came to power, settlers' aggression against Palestinians and their property has increased daily," Khader Shkirat, director of the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and Environment, said at a Jerusalem press conference.

Shkirat outlined a number of attacks on Palestinians allegedly carried out by settlers, culminating in last week's incident in which Hadar Betar security officer Nahum Korman allegedly shot to death a 11-year-old Palestinian child, which he said was a violation of the Oslo Accords.

Shkirat and Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, a leading member of the Palestinian Legislative Council who also attended the press conference,

called for the government to take immediate action to contain the settlers.

Shkirat asked the government "to evict the settlers from Hebron and take their weapons away."

Abdel-Shafi said, "With regard to the settlers in Hebron, I think that the kind of troublemaking in which they are involved only hurts the chances for peace."

"I believe that we can talk about Israeli settlers living in Hebron, but only after we have reached a peace agreement. Then we can address the Israelis' sentimental and religious calls for having settlers in Hebron," Abdel-Shafi said.

Abdel-Shafi also called for the PA to immediately call off negotiations in light of Israel's continued expansion of its settlements, which he said was a violation of the Oslo Accords.

"Peace can only be achieved on the basis of fairness and justice, and not as things are proceeding now," Abdel-Shafi said.

PA, Jordanian Wakfs meet

BILL HUTMAN

PALESTINIAN Authority and Jordanian-affiliated Wakf officials in Jerusalem have gone to Amman in an effort to ease growing tensions over control of the Moslem authority, which runs Al-Aksa Mosque and other Islamic facilities on the Temple Mount and elsewhere in the area.

Since Sunday the officials - including PA Wakf Religious Affairs Minister Hassan Tabboub and Wakf Director Adnan Hussein - have been meeting in the Jordanian capital, according to Palestinian sources.

The meetings are being conducted under the auspices of the Jordanian Minister of the Wakf, Mohammed Al-Abadi, and senior PA official Tayib Abdel Rahim, who previously served as the PLO's ambassador to Jordan, the sources said.

The conflict between the PA and Jordanian reached a new climax last month, when PA officials threatened Jordanian-affiliated Wakf officials for not showing allegiance to the PA. Jordan's King Hussein and Prime Minister

Abdullah have slowly eroded away at Amman's traditional control of the Wakf, which in addition to being responsible for the Moslem sites on the Temple Mount also runs

dozens of schools in eastern Jerusalem and the territories.

Tabboub was quoted in the Palestinian press as saying, before he left for Amman, that relations were good between the Palestinians and Jordan and downplaying the conflict over control of the Wakf.

The Palestinian sources said an effort was being made in Amman to ease the tensions by emphasizing both sides' joint goal of preserving Moslem sites in Jerusalem and the territories.

Meanwhile, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani visited the new Moslem prayer area at Solomon's Stables on the Temple Mount. Afterward Kahalani reiterated that the government would not stand in the way of the site's opening.

"Solomon's Stables were opened with the agreement of the past government and there was no reason for the present government to give approval," Kahalani said.

Kahalani was accompanied by Jerusalem police chief Arye Amir and Old City commander David Givati.

Labor says extremist Jews could sabotage redeployment plans

LIAT COLLINS

JEWISH extremists could sabotage the redeployment plans in Hebron, Labor MKs warned yesterday.

At a meeting of the Labor faction, Ehud Barak and Ra'anan Cohen called for the extremists to be "neutralized." Cohen suggested the use of administrative detention orders.

All the MKs agreed that the agreement on Hebron reached by the current government is very similar to that reached by the Labor government.

Haim Ramon said he fears the agreement will be signed but not carried out, because of extremist actions which will torpedo it.

Party leader Shimon Peres said the agreement will be signed, but the political process will nonetheless be halted, "because [the government] will do something stupid." He called for a strong hand against the extremists.

Barak called for action by the government and the Palestinian

Authority against the known extremists in both the Jewish and Arab communities of Hebron.

Labor whip Ephraim Oshaya, who spent the weekend in Hebron as the guest of the Jewish community, told the faction that not all the Jewish residents are extremists. "There are moderates with whom you can talk," he said.

He said he intends to abstain in any vote on Hebron until the full agreement has been presented to the Knesset. "I don't feel I can vote on something I know nothing about," he said. He called on his colleagues "to hold talks with the Jews, like you do with the Arabs."

Oshaya, nonetheless, launched a strong attack on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, likening him to a peacock whose feathers are being removed one by one by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Top Russian security man an Israeli

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRECISELY three years ago, Boris Berezovsky arrived here with his family to look into the possibility of making aliyah.

Over the weekend, he was elected deputy secretary of Russia's National Security Council, making him one of the most important figures in that country's security system.

Berezovsky arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport on November 5, 1993, on a direct flight from Moscow, the Absorption Ministry spokesman said yesterday. He and his family had tourist visas and apparently headed for Tel Aviv or Bat Yam.

By the end of the month, the Berezovskys had decided to apply for citizenship. On November 29, Berezovsky, then 47, appeared at the ministry's Tel Aviv district office. He applied for citizenship and it was automatically granted

to him - and to his wife Galina, then 35, and their children, Artium, 4, and Anastasia, 1 - when he presented his passport.

Berezovsky's passport stated that his religion was Jewish and that he was born in Avraham and Anna.

He gave his address as 15 Rehov Herzl, Bat Yam, and listed his profession, and that of Galina, as "economist." In Russia, it was widely known, Berezovsky had made a fortune in the automobile business.

The ministry issued Berezovsky with an immigrant card and with an ID card on the spot.

Berezovsky was then instructed to go to the Holon branch of the ministry to get the "absorption basket" - money to tide over new immigrants in the initial stages - to

which his family was entitled. The official made an appointment for him with the Holon office for the following morning.

Berezovsky never appeared again at the ministry offices. "He could have provided the absorption baskets for the entire Russian immigration on his own," Russian circles joked yesterday.

It is not clear whether the Berezovskys began studying Hebrew or looking into work possibilities. They are listed on the Interior Ministry computer as having left the country four months later. They apparently did not renounce their Israeli citizenship.

In Moscow, the news that Berezovsky has dual citizenship has reportedly caused a furor among certain circles. *Izvestiya*, which broke the news, described it as a "scandal."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Doctor killed in head-on collision
Dr. Miri Binyamin, 40, of Lehavim, near Beerseba, was killed yesterday morning after her car and a bus collided head-on on the Beerseba-Dimona highway. Three of the bus's passengers were lightly injured.

Police are searching for the passenger of the taxi which hit and fatally injured Dr. Binyamin, 81, of Tel Aviv, on Sunday at noon on Dizengoff Street. Anyone with information is requested to call: (03)-512-4639 or (03)-512-4624. *Itm*

Zucker questioned under caution
The National Fraud Squad questioned MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) under caution yesterday regarding his connection with the Camera Obscura school. This was the second time Zucker was questioned about allocating government money to the school. *Itm*

GHQ renamed in Rabin's memory
The General Staff headquarters in Tel Aviv was renamed Mahane Rabin (Camp Rabin) in memory of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin at a ceremony yesterday attended by his widow, Leah Rabin, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Chief-of-General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and other dignitaries.

Shahak and Leah Rabin noted that the base had been Rabin's "home" for 22 years as an officer, chief of staff, and defense minister. *Itm*

Woman cleared of embassy attack
A Palestinian woman accused of bombing Israel's London embassy left the courtroom free yesterday, after a judge ruled there was not enough evidence against her. Zeena, 49, would formally be cleared today. *Reuter*

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and all at Yeshivat Midrash Sefaradi

Group says gov't born in sin

ON the anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, the activist group Lo Nishkah (We shall not forget) said the government was born in sin and does not deserve to rule.

The group, represented by Attorney David Moshevit, took out a front page ad in Ha'aretz. "I expected at the very least that those involved, whose incitement led to the murder, would be brought to justice. Instead, the inciters are in the cabinet," he said. *Michal Tudeiman*

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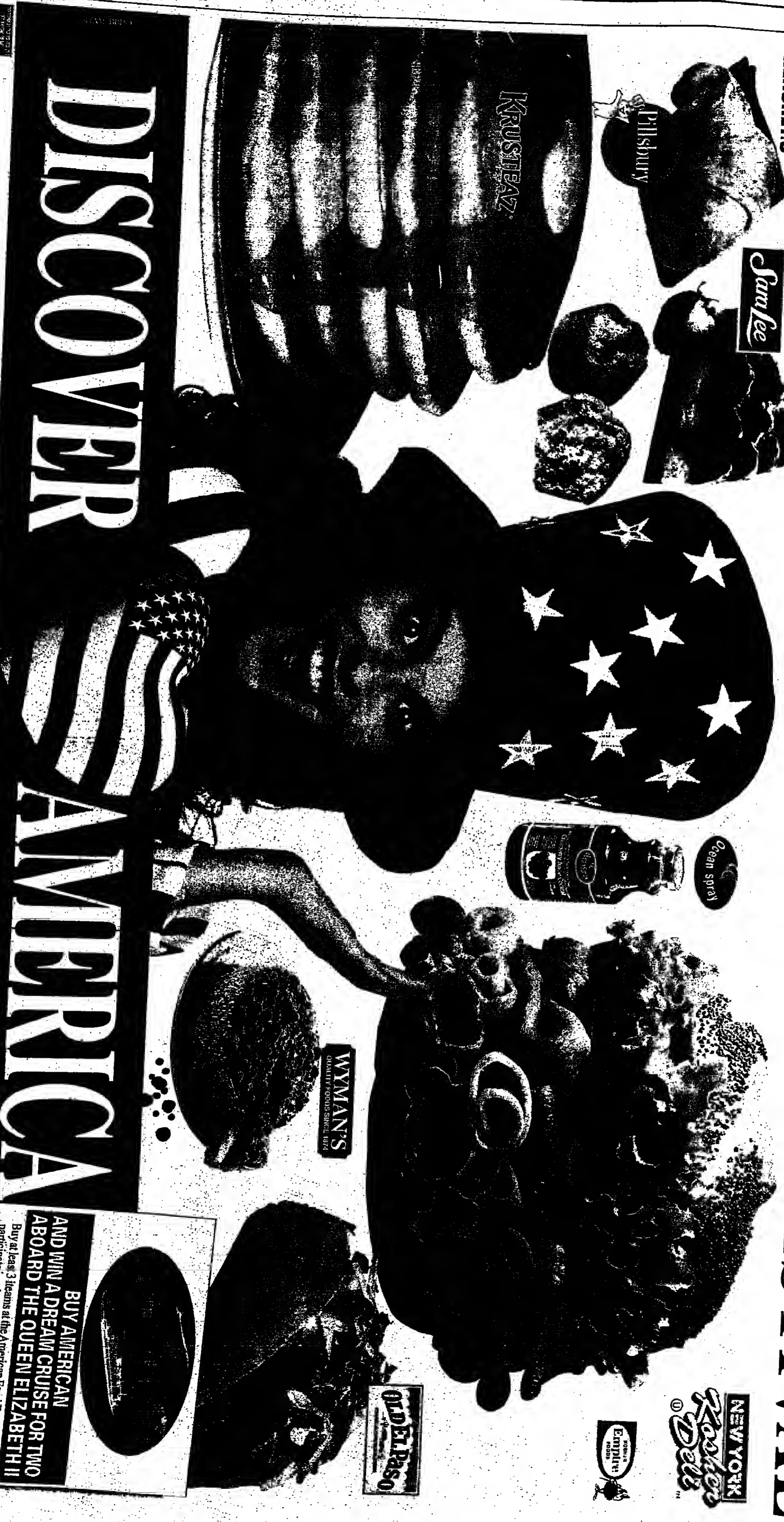
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3-6

Kahalani: Tunnel was opened to promote tourism

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani stressed yesterday that the decision to open the Western Wall Tunnel had been taken to facilitate tourism in the area.

He said he had told Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat he believes it should be turned into the "Tunnel of Peace," bringing tourists into the market area on the Via Dolorosa. He repeated that it did not harm any of the holy sites.

Kahalani addressed the Knesset Interior Committee on the background to the decision to open the tunnel at the request of committee chairman Sallah Tarif (Labor). He said the previous government under both Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres had considered opening the tunnel.

Kahalani said the issue had been discussed under the new government both with the Steering Committee on Jerusalem Affairs,

LIAT COLLINS

which he heads, and the Interministerial Committee on Jerusalem, headed by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

When Netanyahu informed him of the decision to open the tunnel, Kahalani agreed with it, but asked to postpone the implementation until after Yom Kippur so as not to tie up police and security forces over the holiday. He said there had been no predictions of rioting.

He rejected charges that the IDF had not had time to prepare for the disturbances, saying the tunnel was opened on a Tuesday morning and the riots broke out the following day.

"The Palestinians used the tunnel as an excuse to open fire," he said. "If they hadn't shot at us then, they would have done it a few weeks later. With all the pain

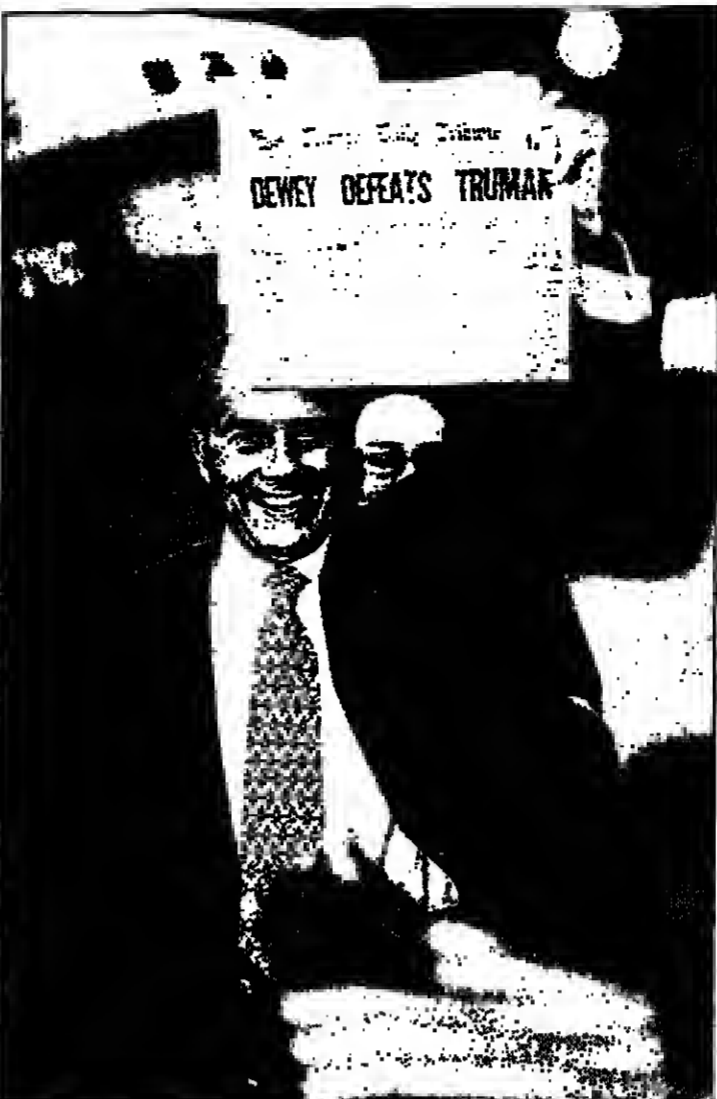
and sorrow, I believe it showed us what they are prepared to do with the guns we have given them, and we must take this into account for the future."

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz agreed with Kahalani's assessment that the tunnel opening had provided the Palestinians with a pretext, and said the police had not expected such major disturbances. "The response was not so much because of the tunnel, but more because of the exploitation of the opportunity to create pressure on the political channels," Hefetz said.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Libi said the government is committed to continuing with archeological exploration and development in Jerusalem. "No one will tell us we do not have sovereignty or not to develop tourism," he said.

Marathon US election campaign winds down

ROBERT KEARNS WASHINGTON



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole holds up a copy of 'The Chicago Tribune' bearing the headline 'Dewey defeats Truman' at the end of a rally in Loma Linda, California, on Sunday. In the 1948 presidential race, Truman surprised the media by winning the election after newspapers had gone to press.

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton and Republican rival Bob Dole end their marathon campaigns for the White House yesterday before heading home to await the voters' choice in today's election.

For both career politicians, it is a last campaign hurrah.

Underdog Dole is hoping for a Truman-like miracle finish. A confident Clinton is hoping to hold on to his big lead in pre-election polls. Both are ending their campaign careers with nostalgic nods to the political past.

Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who is the Reform Party candidate and is given no chance in the polls, had planned to broadcast several half-hour-long commercials last night.

At campaign stops in Florida on Sunday, Clinton likened himself to Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, two Republicans. Across the country in California, Dole claimed the mantle of feisty Democratic President Harry Truman and planned to end his last campaign sprint in Truman's hometown of Independence, Missouri, after charging across Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Iowa.

Dole hopes to repeat Truman's 1948 upset win over heavily favored Republican Tom Dewey. Well after midnight, he will go to his prairie crossroads hometown of Russell, Kansas, to vote with his wife, Elizabeth, who has been at his side throughout a whirlwind 96-hour rush to the finish line that started last Friday morning.

"I haven't stayed up around the clock since I fought the Nazis in World War II," said 73-year-old

Dole, whose right arm remains useless from combat wounds that nearly killed him.

At a pre-dawn rally outside a Phoenix, Arizona diner, Dole told the crowd "there is a poll out this morning that shows it's a dead heat. It's tied across America. If that poll is accurate and it's tied today, we'll win tomorrow."

A confident Clinton spent the final hours of his last campaign trying to make sure his supporters



go to the polls. He campaigned along the eastern seaboard on Sunday, starting in sunny Florida and ending in Maine after midnight with an airport rally in Bangor.

Clinton's election-eve stumping on Monday began at the Merrimack Restaurant in Manchester where President John Kennedy, Clinton's boyhood idol, launched his campaign in 1960. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge halts new gun licensing rules
Justice Mishael Cheshin yesterday issued an order forbidding Interior Minister Eliahu Suissa from issuing new, less restrictive gun licensing regulations until a three-justice High Court panel hears arguments on the matter on November 13. He was responding to a petition against the new regulations by MK Avraham Foraz (Meretz).

Foraz contends that the new rules are unreasonable since Suissa did not consult before issuing them with the appropriate security authorities nor consider the dangers involved. *Itim*

Water commissioner plans to retire
National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday granted Water Commissioner Gidon Tsar's request to retire from the position, which he has held for four years. Sharon said he will look into finding another position in his ministry for Tsar. *Itim*

Bank robber sentenced to four years
Tel Aviv District Court sentenced Oshrat Yeshua, 23, of Kfar Sava, to four years' imprisonment yesterday for robbing a Bank Hapoalim branch in Bnei Brak in June.

Yeshua stole NIS 29,000 from the bank, while threatening the tellers with what they later learned was a toy gun. She confessed to the crime, which she says she committed in order to gain attention and because she wanted to go to jail. *Itim*

Man indicted for raping wife
A 32-year-old resident of Haifa's bay-side suburbs was indicted in Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday for raping his wife. According to the prosecution, the couple had been in the process of getting a divorce when, during an argument on October 25, the man grabbed his wife by the throat, raped her and then threatened to strangle her and kill himself. *Itim*

Accident victim awarded NIS 5.7 million
The Haifa District Court yesterday ordered Yuval Roth, of Moshav Ben Shimon, and the Magen Insurance Company to pay NIS 5.7 million in damages to a 55-year-old woman. In January, 1992, the woman was hit by a car, driven by Roth, while she was crossing a Rishon Lezion street on a crosswalk. She has been declared 100 percent disabled as a result of her injuries. *Itim*

Ministry issues health warning against Hamifratz meat products

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry has warned the public not to eat meat blintzes, meat patties, or meat ravioli produced by Hamifratz Catering at 17 Rehov Edison in Haifa, until further notice.

Routine checks of these products by the Haifa District Health Office last month showed contamination with salmonella and staphylococcus bacteria. The factory was told to stop marketing the products until additional tests are conducted.

Some 150 kilos of the products were found to have the bacteria. These were meat blintzes marked

with the production date 15/10/96 and 21/10; meat ravioli marked 20/10 and 23/120; and meat patties dated 20/10 and 23/10.

Additional checks done in the last few days found no improvement. The ministry therefore issued an order for the destruction of affected products, but some of it reached the markets "in contravention of ministry instructions."

The ministry said it would confiscate affected Hamifratz products if located, but that the public should be alert and not eat them.

Anti-smoking group backs Clinton

JUDY SIEGEL

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has, in effect, received an endorsement from the Israel Forum for the Prevention of Smoking for his efforts to reduce smoking among Americans, especially young people.

The forum, a roof body of public and voluntary organizations that oppose smoking, met yesterday and issued a statement in favor of Clinton.

"We congratulate President Clinton on his efforts to reduce smoking among the American public. We wish him success and hope he will continue in these efforts after the election. We also hope that Israel will take his example," the forum said.

Among the forum's suggestions are to increase taxes on tobacco products, broaden and deepen enforcement of anti-smoking laws, allocate funds for a battle against smoking, and to dissuade young people from becoming addicted to tobacco.

Smoking became a major issue in the race between Clinton and Bob Dole. The former Kansas senator, who has received millions of dollars in campaign money from tobacco companies over the years, claims tobacco is not addictive — a statement proven wrong by many studies.

Clinton recently issued proposals for strict laws that would make cigarettes and other tobacco products less accessible to young people. These include additional restrictions on cigarette vending machines and tobacco promotion.

Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi has promised to issue his own proposals for reducing smoking this week, but anti-smoking activists have voiced concern about whether they will be implemented, as Hanegbi is supposed to leave the ministry and become full-time justice minister in the near future.

His reported successor, MK Yehoshua Matza (Likud), is a smoker, but he did observe the law and did not allow smoking at meetings of the Knesset Interior Committee, which he headed.

Presidential electoral college votes by state

- WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Following is a full list of the number of votes for each state and the District of Columbia in the US presidential electoral college, which chooses the president. A candidate needs 270 of the 538 votes to win the election.
- Alabama 9
 - Alaska 3
 - Arkansas 6
 - Arizona 8
 - California 54
 - Colorado 8
 - Connecticut 8
 - Delaware 3
 - DC 3
 - Florida 25
 - Georgia 13
 - Hawaii 4
 - Idaho 4
 - Illinois 22
 - Indiana 12
 - Iowa 7
 - Kansas 6
 - Kentucky 8
 - Louisiana 9
 - Maine 4
 - Maryland 10
 - Massachusetts 12
 - Michigan 18
 - Minnesota 10
 - Mississippi 7
 - Missouri 11
 - Montana 3
 - Nebraska 5
 - Nevada 4
 - N. Hampshire 4
 - N. Jersey 15
 - N. Mexico 5
 - N. York 33
 - N. Carolina 14
 - N. Dakota 3
 - Ohio 21
 - Oklahoma 8
 - Oregon 7
 - Pennsylvania 23
 - Rhode Island 4
 - S. Carolina 8
 - S. Dakota 3
 - Tennessee 11
 - Texas 32
 - Utah 5
 - Vermont 3
 - Virginia 13
 - Washington 11
 - W. Virginia 5
 - Wisconsin 11
 - Wyoming 3
 - TOTAL 538

Clinton holds big lead in new 'Times'/CBS poll

NEW YORK (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton held a commanding 16-point lead over Republican rival Bob Dole a day before today's election, virtually the same edge he had a year ago, a New York Times/CBS News poll showed yesterday.

The poll, conducted late last week, showed Clinton favored by 50 percent of those surveyed, with Dole at 34 percent and Ross Perot with 8 percent.

The newspaper said the results were nearly the same as those from a similar survey conducted in October 1995.

A poll commissioned by Reuters showed the race much tighter, with Clinton leading with 43.5 percent of the people surveyed, Dole following close behind with 39.7 percent and Perot with 7.2 percent.

The Times also cited results from state polls and interviews with strategists to say that Clinton would likely win enough states to well surpass the 270 electoral votes he needs for victory, while predicting Dole would have trouble reaching 100 electoral votes.

The poll also said that 47 percent of those surveyed preferred Democratic House candidates compared to 41 percent who supported Republicans.

The poll was based on telephone interviews with 1,919 adults, 1,519 of whom were registered voters. The poll, conducted last Wednesday through Friday, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Clinton win would bring relief in Moscow, say experts

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Moscow will breathe a sigh of relief if President Bill Clinton is re-elected today but Russian-US relations face testing times whatever the outcome, Russian foreign policy experts said yesterday.

The Kremlin has not expressed any official preference for Clinton or Republican rival Bob Dole in the US presidential election.

But President Boris Yeltsin's good personal ties with "my friend Bill," Moscow's desire for continuity and its mistrust of the Republicans ensure that the Kremlin will be leaning towards Clinton behind the scenes.

"If everything goes the way it seems to be going, Clinton will be re-elected and there will be a sigh of relief in Moscow — in the foreign ministry and in the Kremlin," independent political analyst Andrei Kortunov told Reuters.

"Moscow feels Clinton has invested a lot in Russia and that this would make it more difficult for him than for Dole to make a sudden change in US policy."

Continuity will be particularly important for the Kremlin in the next few months when, if all goes well, Yeltsin will still be recovering from heart surgery or, in a worst-case scenario, Russia will be looking for his successor.

"Some of Dole's comments are regarded here as having an anti-Russian subtext and the Kremlin would not be happy if he won," said Pavel Kandel of Moscow's independent Institute of Europe think tank.

Yeltsin and Clinton have had a warm personal relationship since reaching a "psychological understanding" at their first full summit in the Canadian city of Vancouver in April 1993.

Clinton has been a firm backer of Russian reforms and has stood behind Yeltsin when the going got tough, including resisting pressure to take a tougher stance against Moscow's military campaign to

crush separatists in rebel Chechnya.

But although the two presidents have continued to give each other bear hugs in public, the euphoria of the period immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 has given way to a more perfunctory relationship dogged by problems.

On many issues, Moscow and Washington have simply ebbed to agree to differ for the sake of keeping relations on track.

A major problem in the 1990s has been NATO's plans, backed by the United States, to take in countries of eastern and central Europe. Russia says this expansion would threaten its security and strongly opposes it.

This looks set to remain the major problem if Clinton wins a second four-year term and it could come to a showdown soon. Clinton said last month he was committed to trying to bring some former communist states into NATO by 1999.

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Doctors give green light for Yeltsin surgery

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Doctors gave the green light yesterday for President Boris Yeltsin's planned heart surgery to go ahead but kept the world guessing about the timing of the operation.

Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky quoted doctors who met to review the president's progress as saying the bypass operation could be carried out in the next few days.

No exact day or time was given, and the spokesman's statement added little to a sparse medical bulletin issued earlier in the day, underlining the overall secrecy over an event whose outcome could be crucial for Russia's future.

The doctors met at the Barvikha sanatorium outside Moscow where Yeltsin has been staying. They said his preparation for surgery had been successful and his current condition showed "all organs and systems to be functioning at an optimal level."

"This makes it possible to undertake the operation with a high level of certainty and confi-

dence," the spokesman quoted the doctors as saying.

"The operation itself can be carried out in the next few days."

Among the doctors taking part in the council was US surgeon Michael DeBakey, who arrived in Moscow on Sunday.

The earlier bulletin said Yeltsin's temperature, pulse and blood pressure were normal but gave no other information.

But there were other signs the operation on the 65-year-old president, first announced in September, was imminent.

Interfax news agency said Defense Minister Igor Rodionov had put off a planned trip to a northern naval base today.

Interfax did not mention Yeltsin's operation. But it would be highly unusual for the defense minister to be away from the capital while Yeltsin, who is commander-in-chief, undergoes surgery.

The head of the Russian Orthodox Church offered prayers for Yeltsin in the Kazan cathedral on Red Square.

CORINNE DUFKA
BUKAVU, Zaire

Zaire rebels cease fire; Mobutu flies to France

A CEASE-FIRE announced by Tutsi rebels in eastern Zaire yesterday appeared to be holding after a lightning two-week offensive uprooted many of more than a million refugees with little food or water.

Zaire's ally President Mobutu Sese Seko left Switzerland after three months in Lausanne, where he was operated on for prostate cancer, and flew to the French Riviera capital of Nice.

Mobutu, 66, was whisked off to a location presumed to be his residence in the Nice area, putting him in the same country emerging as the champion of foreign intervention in Zaire.

Tutsi rebels earlier warned war would resume unless Zaire's army abided by the truce - a tall order for the military which has vowed to recapture the towns and cities it lost. There was no immediate official Zairean comment on the cease-fire offer.

Rebel leader Laurent Kabila said his fighters would observe a three-week cease-fire beginning at 5 p.m. to allow 1.1 million Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees to return home.

Reuters correspondent Christian Jennings in the Rwandan border town of Gisenyi bordering on the Zairean city of Goma said last night that the cease-fire appeared to be holding as there had been no sounds of gunfire heard since mid-morning.

But it was unclear if there was no shooting in the region because of the cease-fire or because the lakeside city had fallen to the rebel forces, as Kabila had said earlier yesterday.

Fierce battles forced all foreign aid workers on Saturday to flee into Rwanda from Goma, capital of North Kivu province.

"The Alliance for Democracy following a unilateral decision will have a cease-fire to start at 5 p.m. today for three weeks," said Kabila, 56, who has been long a thorn in Mobutu's side.

"This is because of the disquiet of the international community,



Rebels from the Democratic Alliance Force of Congo Zaire prepare to search the bags of civilians returning to Bukavu after having fled the fighting a week ago.

speaking from the Zairean city of Bukavu.

But rebels in Bukavu, seized last Tuesday, said they waited in vain yesterday for Kabila to arrive in the city, which is calm and to which thousands of Zaireans are returning every day.

Rwandan refugees have so far refused to go home, fearing punishment for the mass slaughter in which many took part. Many have headed westwards deeper into Zaire and away from the Rwandan border.

Tens of thousands of Hutu militiamen and former Rwandan soldiers, many of them armed, are among the Hutu refugees.

A UN official who visited a feeding center at Gatumba in Burundi for newly-arrived

Burundian refugees fleeing from Zaire reported some of the children were merely "skin and bone."

In Geneva, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata urged international action to create protected humanitarian corridors in eastern Zaire to coax Rwandan refugees home.

(Reuters)

(Reuters)

Romanian opposition wins; presidential race heads to a runoff

BUCHAREST (AP) - In a major political shift, Romania's opposition swept into power in parliament and President Ion Iliescu was forced into a runoff, according to preliminary election results yesterday.

After Sunday's vote, Iliescu, a former Communist, was running just ahead of Emil Constantinescu of the center-right Democratic Convention, coasting a presidential runoff November 17.

The results reflected voter anger over rampant corruption and low living standards in one of eastern Europe's poorest countries after nearly seven years of rule by Iliescu and his allies.

With more than half the returns tallied, Iliescu's support plummeted to 33 percent from the 48 percent he received in 1992's first round elections. Constantinescu had 28 percent and former Premier Petre Roman, a reformer ousted in a 1991 miners' revolt, was third at 21 percent.

Many who voted for Roman and smaller opposition groups are expected to throw their support behind Constantinescu in the runoff, which could mean defeat for Iliescu.

In parliament, the preliminary count gave the Democratic Convention 30 percent, the Social Democracy Party 22 percent, and Roman's group 13 percent.

If the results stand, the opposition will have a majority of seats and a chance to form a new government.

"It is normal after a long period of government for the party in power to face popular dissatisfaction because of the country's difficult economic situation," Iliescu said late Sunday.

Iliescu, 66, has run Romania since Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed in December 1989. He campaigned as a symbol of stability.

But exit polls showed only the elderly giving him solid support as young people, workers and traditionally conservative farmers voted heavily for change.

Constantinescu, a 57-year-old professor with no political experience beyond a prior run for the presidency, appealed for national unity.

Some 17.3 million of Romania's 23 million citizens were eligible to vote Sunday. Turnout was at least 75 percent nationwide, electoral officials said.

Central African Republic's former emperor Bokassa dead

BANGUI, Central African Republic (Reuters) - Jean-Bedel Bokassa, former self-styled emperor of the Central African Republic, has died at the age of 75, closing a colorful and sometimes grim chapter in the diamond-rich yet impoverished nation's history.

One of Bokassa's sons, Jean Charles, announced the news early yesterday. The flamboyant former leader, whose rule was one of cruelty and extravagance punctuated by capricious decisions, died of a heart attack on Sunday night in Bangui.

Years after he was ousted in 1979,

Bokassa was convicted of conspiracy to murder and embezzlement and sentenced to death, a sentence later commuted. One of his cooks told the court that he used to fry human flesh for Bokassa's meals but the emperor was not convicted of cannibalism.

State radio carried a government announcement that Bokassa, who had been ill with kidney, suspected cerebral and other problems, would have a national funeral and broadcast extracts from his speeches interspersed with solemn music.

Jean Charles said Bokassa had been a

"good father, who always catered for the educational and other needs of his family", notably his children - of whom he had at least 55.

"My father had nationalist ideas but he was often opposed from the outside where he was portrayed as a monster, an eater of men," he told Reuters.

Bokassa seized power in 1966. Modeling himself on his hero Napoleon Bonaparte of France, he crowned himself emperor in 1977. His crown was worth 55 million and the ceremony reportedly cost a quarter of the nation's annual foreign exchange earnings.

Ousted in a French-backed coup in 1979 while in Libya, he lived in exile in Ivory Coast and former colonial power France.

In 1986 Bokassa suddenly returned to the Central African Republic. He was sentenced to death in 1987 for murder and embezzlement after a trial colored by tales of infanticide, cannibalism and of human flesh kept in fridges.

The military leader at the time, Andre Kolingba, commuted Bokassa's sentence to life in prison and then freed him in 1993 at the height of a transition to multi-party democracy.

(Reuters)

2 US pilots fire at Iraqi missile site

WASHINGTON (AP) - The pilots of two US F-16s who fired high-speed missiles at Iraqi radar sites in separate incidents over the past three days had every indication they were being targeted by Iraqi missiles, Defense Secretary William Perry said yesterday.

"These incidents did occur. In both cases, the F-16 warning gear alerted that they were being tracked by a surface-to-air missile system and... they launched a HARM missile, a radiation-seeking missile, toward the source of that radiation," Perry said.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry said the incidents were fabricated by the Clinton administration "to divert the attention of American voters from their domestic scandals by creating false

problems abroad."

Since no evidence has been found that Iraq actually launched any missiles, Perry said an intense investigation is under way.

He said he did not know whether faulty equipment might be involved or whether the Iraqis were playing cat-and-mouse games with their radar systems.

The defense secretary insisted that allied overflights of the area will continue, even though Saddam Hussein's forces have been "quite quiet" in the past week.

Perry said he did not have any reports about possible damage caused by the missiles.

The latest incident occurred at 0900 GMT, about 40 kilometers from where the earlier fir-

ing took place. The Pentagon said the pilot in the second incident, assigned to the 4404th Wing participating in patrol of the southern Iraq "no-fly" zone, returned safely to his base.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said President Clinton was briefed on the incident and analysts were trying to "determine why we've had a second incident."

In the earlier incident, the pilot's cockpit instruments had indicated he was being targeted Saturday by Iraqi radar and under the rules of engagement he was allowed to respond to what he perceived as a hostile act, the Pentagon said.

"Subsequent analysis did not support the initial indications of radar activity," the Pentagon said Sunday.

Dostum calls for talks, but bombs Herat

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan (AP) - Anti-Taliban forces said they were renewing peace efforts yesterday, but they also launched a bombing raid that was the first direct attack on a major western city of the Islamic army captured more than a year ago.

The bombing raid on the airport at Herat, about 600 kilometers west of Kabul, damaged the control tower and forced the United Nations to cancel a scheduled flight, aid workers said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Taliban spokesman Amir Khan Munaj, speaking to reporters in Kabul, the capital, rejected Dostum's latest call for peace talks, calling it an "insult" meant to distract his group from the war.

"The invitation is for the sake of killing time," Munaj said. "We don't want to take part in negotiations which we believe would have no result."

Northern warlord Rashid Dostum, the most powerful member of the anti-Taliban alliance,

said he would ask neighboring Pakistan to pressure the Taliban to come to the negotiating table when he meets with Pakistan's Interior Minister Nasrullah Babaar later this week.

"If Babaar says something the Taliban will accept it," Dostum told reporters summoned to his headquarters, about 300 kilometers northwest of Kabul. "I have good relations with Pakistan and will use it to bring peace."

Babaar has made several attempts to get talks started. Pakistan has repeatedly denied accusations that it supported the Taliban take-over of Afghanistan.

Dostum rejects the Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law. The Taliban have banned most women from working and closed girls' schools, instituted stoning and amputation as punishment for a range of crimes, and forced people into mosques for prayers.

But Dostum acknowledged that he had once backed the Taliban,

which he apparently saw as a counter to an old rival, ousted defense chief Ahmed Shah Massoud. Dostum said Monday he changed his mind when it became clear the Taliban were bent on seizing the entire country.

"I told them not to march to Kabul. But the Taliban did not keep their word," he said.

In an attempt to stop a Taliban sweep of Afghanistan, Dostum allied himself with Massoud, his former foe, and two smaller Islamic parties.

Until now most of the major battles between the Taliban and its enemies have been restricted to just north of Kabul. Neither side has gained ground despite days of fierce fighting with heavy artillery, mortars, rockets and fighter jets.

In recent days Dostum, a former communist general whose troops control most of northern Afghanistan, has been threatening to step up pressure on Taliban soldiers in western Afghanistan.

Britain says no easing of IRA truce terms

BELFAST (Reuters) - Britain yesterday ruled out any deals with IRA guerrillas to admit their Sinn Fein political wing to current Northern Ireland peace talks. The territory's new police chief earlier warned Britons to expect further IRA attacks and ruled out any immediate new truce by the hardline republicans. Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said Britain insisted that the IRA call an unequivocal cease-fire to its war against British rule to earn Sinn Fein a seat.

Hizbullah blasts 'Independence Day' as Jewish-US plot to rule the world

BEIRUT (AP) - Independence Day, the Hollywood hit about an alien invasion, is under fire from Hizbullah, who claim the movie champions Jewish superiority.

They complained in a statement that the fantasy thriller is propaganda promoting the "unity which Israel seeks between the 'super Jewish mind and the growing American power to dominate the world under the slogan of defending humanity."

A spokesman for Hizbullah would not specify who scene or character the group objects to. Nor would he comment beyond the statement, which was published in Lebanese newspapers yesterday.

In the movie, actor Jeff Goldblum's character, a computer maven battling space invaders who are

destroying world capitals, and his movie father, played by Judd Hirsch, are portrayed as Jews who return to their faith at the movie's climax.

The movie was cleared by Lebanese censors and screened at cinemas during the last two months. There has been no move to withdraw it from the theaters.

Hizbullah contended it should not be shown when Lebanon needs "a media policy aimed at strengthening their mobilization and immunity against the Zionist enemy."

The last famous foreign film banned in Lebanon was *Schindler's List*, Steven Spielberg's feature on the Holocaust.

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Good luck, friend

THE American people today choose the president who will lead them to the year 2000. This newspaper has stood by its firm faith in Bill Clinton as a fine leader from before his first nomination as the Democrat's presidential candidate in 1992 to the mid-term days of his lowest public approval ratings. It is unremarkable therefore that we still believe that not only is Clinton by far the best candidate in the present race but that his successes in office already have marked him, at least in foreign eyes, as one of the best post-war American presidents.

He is certainly the best friend Israel has ever had in the White House — a fact that cannot be denied even by those opposed to his expansive faith in the Middle East peace process. The labyrinth of Arab and Israeli politics is a treacherous one for foreign leaders and many a well-meaning US president has ended up being despised rather than loved — and by all sides. But not Bill Clinton. The secret of Clinton's successful engagement with Israel has come not merely from the historic ceremonies on the White House lawn or the Arava desert. It has come from a simple word — involvement.

Memories are short in politics, so it is worth noting that while Jewish and Israeli support for Clinton is now perceived to be most enthusiastic among those in the center to left of the political spectrum — this is a complete reversal of the picture four years ago. Then, it was the Jewish and Israeli Right who were enthusiastic for Clinton and the Left who were rooting for George Bush.

In the 1992 campaign Clinton excoriated Bush for his "misguided criticisms of Israel in recent months which have set the peace process backwards by encouraging Arab intransigence and increasing Israel's sense of isolation." Unlike his fellow Democrats, Clinton was described, in American terms, as a "hawk" on the Middle East.

"The biggest obstacle to peace is that Israel's right to exist in peace... has never been recognized by the Arabs," he said, and went on to condemn the economic boycott. By contrast, the Israeli Left then preferred Bush's support of "land for peace" and applauded his acrimonious exchanges with Yitzhak Shavit.

Most American politicians with an eye to that Shanghai known as "the Jewish vote" have always proclaimed their support for Israel. Yet few have seemed so relaxed among Jews and Israelis as Bill Clinton. On his visits, he has always looked as comfortable among Israelis as a Kennedy does among the Irish. He dons and doffs a kippa with that same natural sense of timely appropriateness as a secular Tel Avivian, his biblical allusions and occasional words of Hebrew never sound forced or spin-doctored. None will forget the utter shock and grief Clinton could barely disguise in his reaction to the murder of his friend Yitzhak Rabin. And when in the history of the state did a Hebrew phrase coined by a non-Jewish foreigner ever become a ubiquitous bumper sticker? *Shalom, haver did.*

Nothing has sounded more lame in Republican Bob Dole's lame campaign than his hollow attempt to charge the Clinton White House with not being supportive enough of Israel. Indeed, at times his interest in Israel and

his perceived favoring of Shimon Peres over Binyamin Netanyahu in last May's election opens Clinton to criticism for overinvolvement in Israel's affairs.

Of course, it would be parochial to suggest the president of the United States deserves reelection only because he likes Israel, but all foreigners have a vested interest in all American foreign policies. The domestic issues of the election are properly the concern of Americans, yet it must be noted that no president has so clearly taken over a faltering economy, promised to turn it around, cut the deficit and then done so with such assurance as Clinton.

He is, it is true, beset by a range of questions lumped, in this campaign, under the heading "character." Whitewater hangs over the Clinton household and a sexual harassment law suit going back to his days as the Arkansas governor winds slowly through the court system. And the White House still has not adequately explained what a former bar bouncer was doing pulling the FBI files of Republican's who had once worked in the White House. Serious questions about campaign fund-raising and foreigners possibly buying access to the Oval Office also hang unanswered as the polling places open.

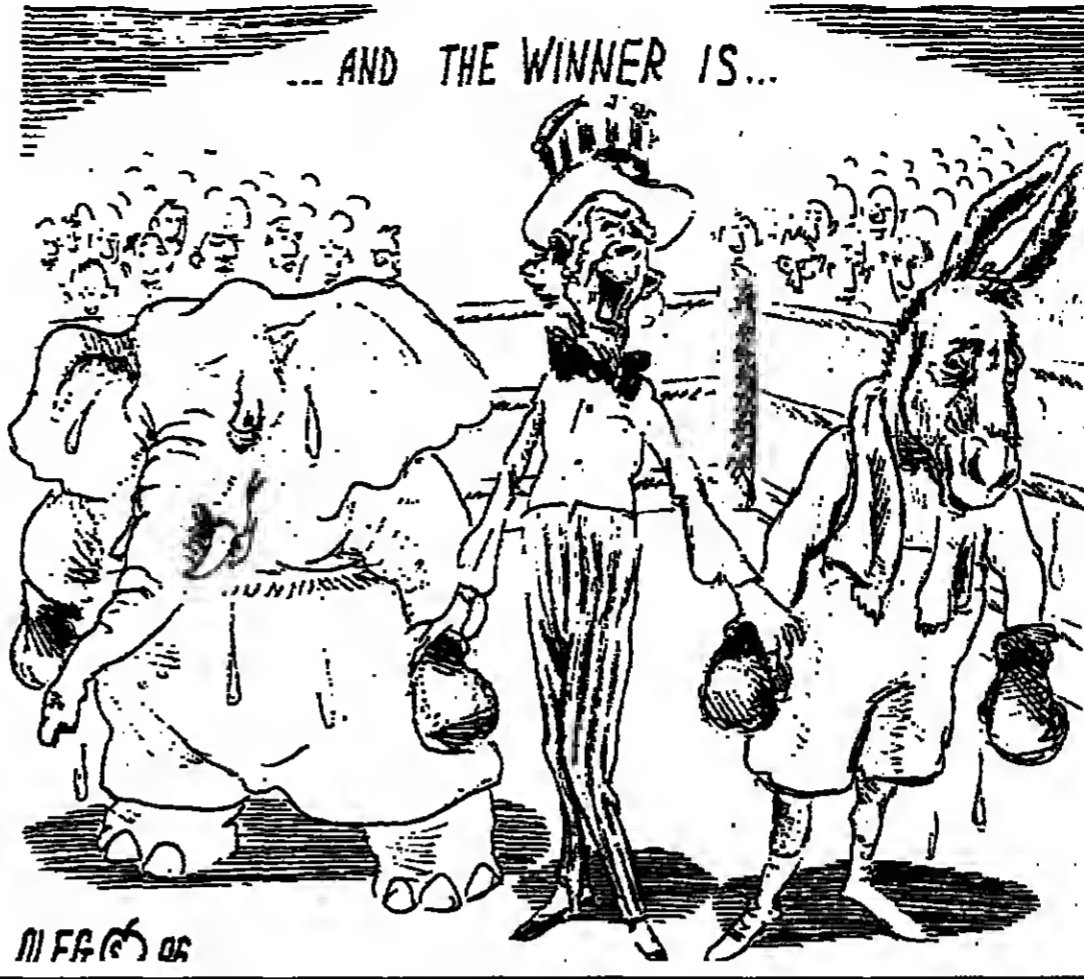
But Clinton's administration has notched up an impressive list of achievements, and not all of them traditional liberal policies. Overseas, this presidency has generated the calmest international climate of any before it. This it has done without any sign the president is not prepared to stand firm where American interests or matters of principle are at stake. On the economic front, this determination has taken him through some serious confrontations with Japan, China, Mexico and the World Trade Organization with flying colors.

On the diplomatic front, his cool and pragmatic leadership helped dismantle a dictatorship in Haiti and avert certain disaster — a considerable success for which Clinton has been given little of the credit he deserved. He quietly restored relations with Vietnam and defused ugly confrontations with Cuba, Iraq and North Korea. But the critics concentrated on what he was "failing" to achieve in Bosnia. Yet after all the abuse, it is his US-brokered peace that just might have ended this brutal war. Clinton brushed aside the ineffectual United Nations and took decisive, and mainly American, military action in former Yugoslavia under the NATO flag.

His record is enough to earn Clinton reelection. But he has another quality, much more intangible, that make him the man most fitted to lead the world into the next century. Bill Clinton is a quintessential man of the 1990s, a decade of turbulent and unforeseen changes, of dismantled values — the 1960s ones no less than the Victorian ones — and of confusions and uncertainties. Like most of us, he is not perfect and like most of us, he wants a better world.

Unlike most of us, he seems to have some good instincts for navigating these end-of-century seas and a willingness to do so with confidence in the destination and with a sense of adventure.

This is a leader the world needs for four more years. Good luck, friend.



Selective compassion

IF one of the rocks that Hilmi Shoushi threw onto the Bear Road had killed a Jewish child, would the US consul general or Peace Now activists have paid the mourning family a (highly-publicized) condolence call?

Probably not. No such visit was paid to Abraham Prigal when his 15-year old daughter Sarit was shot in the head while returning to school in Kiryat Arba; nor to the Bachrachs or the Shachors, whose 18-year old sons were stoned to death while hiking in Wadi Kelt.

Names like Habah, Weiss, Weinstein, Ozana, Felix and Lapid, all of families who lost children at the hands of Arab terrorists, could probably be included on the list.

So why was the mourning Shoushi family chosen for such a visit?

Quoted in *The Jerusalem Post*, the US consul said he "came to the village of Husan to show the US government is committed to the peace process, but also because he was personally touched by the boy's death." Peace Now, one could safely assume, would not feel uncomfortable with this explanation.

Senseless death is perhaps the greatest human tragedy. And the feeling of calamity is most acute when the victim is a child. The case of Hilmi Shoushi is no different. He was an 11-year-old boy with his whole life before him. His death is mourned by all Jews and Arabs whose senses have not been numbed to the point where they can no longer feel the human dimension of the conflict.

What needs to be understood is the shameful absence of a similar display of compassion in cases where the victims have been Jewish children.

One cannot be personally touched by the death of one child but not of another. Unless, of

YECHIEL M. LEITER

course, the underpinnings of sympathy are political, "to show commitment to the peace process."

And the peace process as it now stands is predicated on the belief that the Arabs belong in Judea, Samaria and Gaza while the Jews are a foreign implant. The process, then, is one of wresting the Jewish strangers — gradually if need be — from the Arab land. When that

process is completed, there will be peace.

Hence Arab children who throw stones at Jews are innocent of any wrongdoing. They are heroic Davids advancing the peace process. Murdered Jewish children are, a priori, guilty trespassers, obstacles to the process whose death need not be mourned.

HAD Hilmi Shoushi died in a car accident or of illness his death would have been no less tragic, but it would not have been an excuse for a political charade. The US consul would have stayed home and Peace Now would not have taken the time to mourn with the villagers of Husan.

But we have an accused Jewish "settler" implicated in the boy's death, a convenient Goliath.

Never mind the facts. Never mind that all we know for certain is that Hilmi was stoning Jewish

road travelers (his father admitted as much without any indication that he thought it wrong or acknowledgment that he had disciplined his son, the boy might still be alive).

And never mind that one is innocent until proven guilty, that one (other than Moshe Shahal) is charging Nachum Korman with murder, that it may yet be discovered that Hilmi fell hard while running away or was accidentally hit by a rock thrown by one of his peers.

The selective show of compassion says, in effect, that Korman is guilty no matter what really happened in Husan, because he had no business being there in the first place; certainly he had no right to try and stop Hilmi and his friends from trying to hurt Jews. He is guilty because he got in the way of a process whose aim is to bring about a peace without Jews.

It will never work; such a peace will never exist. For if Jews are foreigners today in the hills of Judea, tomorrow they will be called strangers in the coastal plain.

The majority of Jews in Israel understand this, which is why a decade of Arab terror has not reduced the Jewish population in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. On the contrary, it has more than doubled. Peace can only be achieved through a process which fosters the understanding that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel; that Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza are not temporary settlements, any more than Arab communities are.

Peace can only be achieved when all men and women of good conscience realize that rocks thrown at moving vehicles are lethal weapons.

The writer is executive director of the Yehsa Council Foreign Desk.

Clarity can avoid catastrophe

IT has been reported that the last legal obstacles in the way of the Har Homa construction project in southeast Jerusalem have been removed. At least 6,500 housing units for Jewish residents are planned atop a lovely hill between Kibbutz Ramat Rahel and the Palestinian town of Beit Sahur.

If the project goes ahead it will spark an explosion that threatens to kill the peace process once and for all.

And no one will be able to claim, as in the case of the Hasmonean Tunnel, that the warnings were not clear and timely.

Opposition to the Har Homa project has been voiced for months by Palestinian leaders and many Israelis. If the government and the Jerusalem Municipality implement their plans at this stage in the delicate peace negotiations, without waiting for the agreements to be reached in the final-status talks on Jerusalem, then the Palestinians, indeed the entire world, will know for certain that this Israeli leadership is not interested in peace.

The unmistakable message will be: We are the rulers and we make the rules, regardless of what others may think.

Whoever gave the Hebrew name to this beautiful hill defined the political intent behind the project — to build a dividing wall (*homa*) between "Jewish Jerusalem" and the West Bank areas beyond the expanded, post-'67 municipal boundaries defined by Israel.

The hill is the last unbuilt area surrounding the Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. Creating a Jewish community there would complete this ring encircling the Jerusalemite Palestinians, cutting them off from the West Bank; it would define by "facts on the ground" this section of the final boundary line for Israeli-controlled Jerusalem.

YEHEZKEL LANDAU

Why should anyone be surprised if the Palestinians accuse the government of negotiating in bad faith, and if they respond angrily, even violently?

How can one negotiate when the other party tries unilaterally to pre-determine the outcome of the process, especially on such a critical and sensitive matter as the status of Jerusalem?

The issue here is not archeological digs; it is above ground. The project would entail the expropriation of Palestinian-owned land for exclusive use by Jews and the restriction of building options for the residents of Beit Sahur, who require additional land for their own housing needs.

IS THERE a way out of the foreseeable tragedy? Yes, if there is a will to find it, and to choose it.

The Palestinians in Beit Sahur recognize Jewish claims to the northern part of that hill, which they call Jebel Abu-Ghanem. The southern part, abutting their town, is legally theirs and their rights will be violated if the Har Homa project goes ahead.

The activists at the Rapprochement Center in Beit Sahur have suggested joint development of the hill so that both communities can benefit and the place become a symbol of peace-

ful cooperation rather than confrontation.

Ecologists might prefer that the hill remain as it is, covered with trees. It could become a peace park, with the on-site ruins and cemetery of Christian monastic communities preserved within the larger landscaping. (Has anyone consulted Christian authorities about these historic sites, or will the international outcry on this point be dismissed as propaganda too?)

Jewish and Arab families could picnic there, their children playing together among the trees.

If this option is not acceptable, if Jews and Palestinians both feel extra housing is needed for their respective communities, such a construction project should honor the needs of both parties, involve them equally, and respect what Prime Minister Netanyahu calls the principle of "reciprocity."

After the recent deadly riots sparked by the tunnel incident it would be foolhardy in the extreme for the Israeli authorities to go ahead with this project now.

Add the Hebrew letter *resh* to *homa* and you get *horra*, annihilation. By building this political "wall" under such precarious circumstances, the government would set in motion an escalating dynamic threatening to destroy everything built in this country since well before 1948.

Let us not wait for the next state commission of inquiry to ascertain, after the catastrophe, whether the decision-makers considered all the relevant factors.

The time for clear thinking and wise choices is now, before it is too late. Human lives hang in the balance, and nothing is more sacred.

The writer co-directs the Open House Center for Jewish-Arab Coexistence in Ramle and lives in Jerusalem.

If Bill wins

ROBERT MAHONEY

FRIENDS and foes are wondering what Bill Clinton plans for the world's most unstable region if, as predicted by polls, he wins a second term today.

Arabs, frustrated by delays in implementing Palestinian self-rule, hope he will "get tough" on Israel. Israel and some of its supporters in the US want him to box in Saddam Hussein further and isolate Iran.

Much will depend on whether Clinton veers off the domestic issues that brought him to power and tries to leave his mark on history through a foreign policy triumph.

Russia, China and Bosnia all have a claim to presidential attention ahead of the Middle East, but the region has a fascination for would-be statesmen, and Washington has already invested heavily in Israeli-Arab peace.

The first indication of any shift will be in Clinton's appointment of a secretary of state to replace Warren Christopher, who is widely expected to retire.

Richard Holbrooke, the US mediator on Bosnia, would bring a radical shift, not least in style, but he is a long shot, political analysts believe. Anthony Lake, national security adviser, would also mean change.

But front runner among Washington pundits is UN ambassador Madeline Albright, who spells continuity.

"I doubt there will be any major change in our approach to the Middle East," one US official said. "With the demise of the Soviet Union as a superpower the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is no longer the trigger for World War III. There is no urgency for a change."

A majority of foreign policy analysts in Washington agree. "The big picture won't change," says Yahya Sadowski, a Middle East specialist at the Brookings Institution.

"Domestic policy is the first priority. Clinton only puts energy into foreign policy when it becomes a hot issue domestically... like Bosnia."

Some Palestinians and

Will a second-term Clinton 'turn the screws on Israel' or 'not put pressure on a friend'?

American Jews believe Clinton will lean on Prime Minister Netanyahu to restart implementation of the Oslo agreement, currently snagged on Israel's reluctance to withdraw from Hebron.

"The screws will be turned on the day after the election," says Dov Zakheim, a former Pentagon official and Israeli analyst. "Clinton does not like to be rebuffed."

BUT MOST analysts and pro-Israel lobbyists doubt Clinton wants to use his enormous political, financial and military leverage over Israel.

"The notion that the US can force the Israeli prime minister is wishful thinking," says Middle East analyst Judith Kipper.

"Clinton will not put pressure on a friend, it's not his style," notes an Israeli lobbyist on Capitol Hill. "We can't want peace more than the parties themselves," adds a US official.

Many analysts will urge a second-term Clinton to amend his "dual containment" policy of isolating Iran and Iraq.

"Dual containment is not a policy but an admission that we don't have a policy," says James Zogby of the Arab American Institute.

"Dual containment is a slogan more than a policy," Kipper agrees. "It's not working because they are not contained."

Analysts contend that Clinton's missile strikes on Iraq in September may have weakened Saddam militarily but strengthened him politically.

American officials rule out any Clinton initiatives on Iran, which they accuse of sponsoring terrorism. They say it is too soon to consider "constructive engagement," the policy some believe would change Tehran's behavior with a carrot rather than a stick.

"Clinton has the potential to go further on foreign policy if he secures a big victory for his second term," says analyst John Steinbruner of Brookings.

But for many that remains a hope rather than an expectation. "There's an enormous amount of self-congratulation about what we have done," Sadowski says. "But we don't hear the alarm bells."

(Reuters)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RECIPROCITY
Sir, — Outstanding legal experts Malvina Halberstam and Nathan Lewin unambiguously demonstrate that the Palestinian Authority's substantial material violation frees Israel of the legal obligation under the Oslo accords and makes Israel's compliance in matters such as the disposition of Hebron political, not legal ("A breach of contract," October 28). Prime Minister Netanyahu asserts that, unlike under his predecessors, reciprocity will be required in meeting Oslo commitments. The logical reciprocity for Hebron is the PA's meeting its fundamental quantifiable security obligations, which pre-date Israel's Hebron obligations. This security package includes removing weapons from Hamas and PLO factions, reducing PA police numbers and weapons and complying with the required Israeli clearance of PA police members. When the PA meets these security requirements, the risk Israel takes in the "peace process" will be reduced towards the level projected in the accords. These PA obligations for Israel's security should be met before there are changes in Hebron or changes in any other further compliance with Oslo accords which have security implications. While the lack of PA security-related compliance is obvious, there is not the least indication that the Netanyahu government will even raise the policy of reciprocity. Is it that reciprocity is advertised to Israelis, but is absent from the negotiating table with Arafat?
JOSEPH LERNER
Jerusalem.

CANADIAN SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY
Sir, — United Talmud Torahs, the oldest and first of the Jewish schools in Montreal, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. It has a lot to celebrate. From a single teacher in 1896 with 20 pupils in a small, heated room, UTT and its Herzliah high schools now boast approximately 110 teachers educating over 1,000 students annually in English, French and Hebrew. Special events are being planned for the spring of 1997 marking this milestone occasion in the history of UTT. These include an alumni reunion, a month-long retrospective exhibition starting April 8, an educational seminar, a commemorative souvenir journal, a teachers' tribute and a gala evening scheduled for June 5 at the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue. Details on the alumni reunion have yet to be confirmed, but, in the meantime, former students who would be interested to participating in this or any other event are invited to contact me at tel: (514) 739-2291, fax: (514) 739-3579 or at 4840 St. Kevin Avenue, Suite 240, Montreal, Que. H3W 1P2. We will keep you informed, in the months to come, of dates and locations of these events.
LINDA ROSENBERG,
100th Anniversary project co-ordinator
Montreal.

DEVOTED TEAM
Sir, — Yosef Goell's criticism of the prime minister ("Netanyahu's only achievement to date..." (October 11) is understandable: having apparently regarded him — at the time of the election — as the lesser of two evils, he is now dissatisfied with the way Mr. Netanyahu is dealing with the "plague" legacy of his predecessor and his efforts to minimize the damage already done to Israel. What is not understandable is Mr. Goell's wholesale condemnation of the prime minister's team whom he sees as "sycophants" and "sharp political operators," adding that there is "not a single adviser he [Netanyahu] can trust, who can tell him the truth and warn him when he is going wrong..." Not a single one? It is a damning indictment indeed and made me wonder how well acquainted Mr. Goell is with the members of this group of devoted Israeli patriots who followed the prime minister's call to serve the country. Mr. Netanyahu is indeed fortunate to have advisers who not only do their best to help him protect the country's interest under very difficult circumstances but also endeavor to repair the damage done to Israel-Diaspora relations during the tenure of the previous government. They deserve praise, not collective defamation.
R. WILLERS
Wembley Park, Middx.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

UMB sues ex-London manager for bribery

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNITED Mizrahi Bank filed a suit against a former general-manager of UMB-London and his deputy last week for allegedly receiving bribes from the Facia chain.

The episode is connected to the disclosure of irregularities at the London branch in the third quarter of 1995.

As a result, UMB made a special provision of NIS 80 million in 1995 to cover for potential bad loans, resulting from the London branch's failure to follow Mizrahi's credit procedures. Following the bank's revelation of the scandal, branch general-manager Rafi Kelnor and his deputy John Doharti had been fired.

UMB filed the suit in the London Court against Kelnor and Doharti for allegedly receiving bribes from Facia in exchange for organizing an £8 million loan.

The UK-based Facia retail chain was made up of about 10 retail stores in London that operated under one umbrella. The loan was given for very little collateral and was above the UK's approved credit ceiling.

Most of the bank's suspicions are based on the investigation by KPMG, the accountancy firm which was appointed receiver of Facia. The chain collapsed in July, leaving accumulated debts of about £30m., including the debt to UMB London.

The receiver found that Facia passed on about 1.3 million pounds of the loan it received as "agent commission" to the bank accounts of Doharti, Kelnor and Robert Lackey, the businessman who introduced UMB-London management to Facia's previous owner, Stefan Hinichliff. The money was transferred to secret bank accounts in Switzerland.

Hinichliff is being investigated by Scotland Yard. The episode occurred when Hinichliff had a poor reputation in England and few would work with him but Bank Mizrahi, a source close to the situation said.

According to the source, Mizrahi expects the suit to help it recover the money lost. General banking insurance fidelity allows for recovery only if actual monetary benefit is proven. According to the source, Mizrahi expects the evidence revealed in the suit is "only the tip of the iceberg," the source said. UMB declined to comment.

BT-MCI merger could spark global shake-up

BONN (Reuters) — A major realignment of the world's telecommunications industry could be imminent, as regional alliances assess their positions after the merger of British Telecommunications Plc and MCI Communications, industry analysts said yesterday.

But should the BT-MCI merger be concluded as planned, their newly formed Concert Plc could become the firm the world's largest corporations and regional carriers with global aspirations turn to for services.

Jan.-Oct. tax revenues NIS 2b. short of Treasury's forecast

DAVID HARRIS

STATE revenue this year over the 10-month period lasting through October totalled NIS 78.6 billion which, while signifying a 3% real-terms increase on the NIS 68.6b. recorded over the same period last year, is nevertheless some NIS 2b. lower than Treasury forecasts.

October revenues, which totalled NIS 7.7b., fell NIS 200 million short of the Treasury's original forecast, which was the foundation for Fiscal 1996's budget.

The gaps between the government's forecasts and its actual revenues are seen as reflecting the slow-down which has been afflicting the real-estate and construction sectors, as well as durable-goods imports and retail activity.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor has said recently that rebalancing the budget would be among his highest priorities.

Senior officials in the Bank of Israel, meanwhile, have said recently that the NIS 4.9b. budget cut, which is currently awaiting the Knesset's approval, is insufficient in light of the Treasury's failure to adequately forecast the resources with which the government is bound to finance its activities.

Over the January-October period, the Income Tax and Property Tax, Department collected some NIS 42.8b., a 1% decrease in real terms on the equivalent 1995 figure.

There was a 23% fall in the amount of Property Tax retrieved between August and October. This, the Treasury said, was because of the small number of real estate transactions. The Customs and VAT Department's revenue

stood at NIS 35.1b. in the period, a 5% real-terms increase.

Increased duties on fuel and cigarettes brought in an additional NIS 750m., but this was offset by other factors.

In October, 11,670 vehicles were imported, down 7% from the same month last year. There were also reductions in imports of televisions (17%), refrigerators (10%) and videos (6%). On the other hand, there were increases in the number washing machines (7%) and dishwashers (5%) brought into the country.

The latest figures will provide further relief to Treasury officials, whose NIS 7.6b. prediction for the total budget deficit this year was surpassed in the first 10 months by an estimated NIS 2.2b.



A camel and a horse eat garbage near a vegetable market at the entrance to Beirut's Shatilla refugee camp yesterday. Many Lebanese bring in their animals from rural areas to earn extra money by using them for transportation and labor in local fairs. (Reuters)

Dovrat Shrem raises \$50m. for Polaris Fund II

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Dovrat Shrem Group has raised some \$50 million from foreign and Israeli investors, completing the first round of funding for the Polaris Fund II, the investment management firm announced yesterday.

The Dovrat Shrem Group jointly established the Polaris Fund II several months ago with investment bank Cowen and Company and the Travelers Group, a financial services holding company. The Polaris Fund II intends to invest in technology-intensive companies with a high-growth potential, mainly in the areas of communications, software, electronics, biotechnology and medicine.

Dovrat Shrem said the first stage of the funding was completed three months after the fund's launching. Ultimately, the fund is expected to accumulate \$100m.

According to Yitzhak Shrem, general manager of Dovrat Shrem, the fund's contributors include strategic investors in the areas of advanced technologies and finance.

Among the foreigners are the Travelers Group, Cowen and Company, Claridge Israel and BEA, the manager of the Israel fund. Among the Israeli investors are Arizon Investments, Teva, Bank Leumi, Ornat and Delek Investments.

Safra buys Discount Bank's Canadian subsidiary

Hapoalim to shut down Los Angeles branch

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAEL Discount Bank has signed an agreement to sell its subsidiary Israel Discount Bank of Canada to National Republic Bank of New York (Canada), the bank announced yesterday.

The parties would not disclose additional details about the deal, except that according to the agreement Discount Bank of Canada's activities will be merged with Republic's.

During the last few years, most local banks have reduced their overseas operations, mainly in the US and Canada where subsidiaries incurred large losses.

A Discount spokesman said the decision to sell is in line with management's policy to reduce its overseas operations. In contrast to the other Israeli banks Canadian operations, Discount Canada has not suffered losses in recent years, he said.

Discount Bank of Canada total assets reached \$95m. (Canadian) at the end of the first

nine months of 1996.

The agreement remains subject to the agreement of the authorities in Israel and Canada.

Meanwhile, Bank Hapoalim said it will close its Los Angeles branch by year's end, in the framework of the bank's restructuring measures.

Last year, the bank closed its Boston branch, after concluding that it would no longer generate sufficient profits.

The Los Angeles branch, which employs 18, is managed by

Kalman Sheif, who was appointed to the position a year ago.

Sheif's appointment came shortly after Hapoalim discovered that the branch's previous manager, Shmuel Shaked, granted credit to customers in excess of the branch's approved credit ceiling.

The decision to close down the branch is attributed mainly to the relatively slow progress it has made in granting credit to local customers.

The branch was traditionally focused on deposits and credit plans for large customers.

Sharansky to visit Russia for first time since release from captivity

FORMER Prisoner of Zion and current Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky will return to Russia in three weeks for the first time since his release from captivity in 1986.

The scheduled seven-day trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg is also the first visit to Russia by a member of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government.

Among Sharansky's aims during his visit are to strengthen diplomatic and trade ties between the two countries. This, according to his ministry, should be easier to accomplish now since the Israeli government has agreed to place relations with the former Soviet Union countries, and particularly with Russia, high on its international agenda.

In the near future, exports to the area should exceed \$1 billion, Sharansky said yesterday. Over the last year, exports to Russia reached \$260 million and

imports totalled some \$100m.

The countries, through their joint economic committee, have already outlined three trade sectors in which it is felt there should be closer cooperation: telecommunications, agricultural and medical equipment. Currently foodstuffs comprise the major share of bilateral trade.

Joining Sharansky on the visit will be Ministry director-general Yehoshua Gilelman, representatives of the Foreign, Health, Agriculture and Communications ministries. Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper and Chairman of Commerce Chairman Danny Gilerman.

Among the companies represented in the party of 50 are Teva, Elbit, Tadiran and Yotvata. The provisional timetable includes meetings with various government ministers, an industrial seminar, a financial seminar with Russian bankers and meetings with businesspeople in St. Petersburg.

While in Russia, Sharansky will also attempt to improve ties with its remaining Jews and encourage their ally. A group of new Russian immigrants to Israel will accompany Sharansky.

"The Israeli government will do its utmost to improve and deepen the absorption of the 750,000 immigrants already in Israel," Sharansky said.

"We must also assess the possible absorption of a million additional Jews in the CIS. I believe that a large-scale ally such as this will secure the center of the world for Jews, and strengthen Israel's position among other countries."

Sharansky's wife and mother also will take part in the trip, at Sharansky's own expense.

During his stay, Sharansky will renew ties with old acquaintances and visit a Moscow synagogue.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Finnish elevator firm in local deal

THE Finnish elevator company KONE, which had been active here since 1994 through Nechushtao Elevators, has signed a cooperation agreement with Isralift.

KONE, sidlined when Swiss firm Schindler bought a 51 percent share of Nechushtao during the summer, is one of the world's largest elevator manufacturers, with 21,000 workers and annual sales of \$2.5 billion. Having no strategic partner

here, KONE requested the Finnish Embassy to carry out a market research study, which suggested Isralift as a suitable target.

Some 2,000 new elevators are installed here every year, by 19 companies, the largest of which are Isralift, Nechushtao, and Electra.

While new sales are not profit making, the follow up service agreements can earn companies 20% to 25% profits.

Jerusalem Post Staff

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mar-Haim calls for Israel-PA free-trade zone north of Jerusalem: A free-trade zone for both Israel and the PA should be created on the northern outskirts of Jerusalem. Postal Authority Chairman Amos Mar-Haim told an audience of business leaders Sunday night.

Mar-Haim, who heads the opposition faction in the Jerusalem Municipality and may run against Mayor Ehud Olmert in the 1998 municipal elections, called for the establishment of the free-trade area around Atarot airport.

Such a measure, he said, would be beneficial both to Jerusalem and to the Palestinian Authority.

Responding in a statement, Olmert said, "this subject has arisen in the past and will be discussed in the appropriate forum."

However, no such plan is currently under consideration, according to Itzik Hananya, adviser on development areas to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

Greer Fay-Cashman and Jerusalem Post Staff

Mekorot employees plan meeting over possible job-losses: Some 3,000 employees of Mekorot are scheduled to stage an emergency meeting at Tel Aviv's Yad Eilahu stadium afternoon.

Fears over the future of the company and possible job losses as a result of a privatization are the main theme.

David Harris

Diamond exports rose last month: Exports of polished diamonds totalled \$421 million for October, compared to \$309m. in the corresponding period one year ago, a 36 percent increase.

For the January to October period, exports were up 6% to \$3.4 billion, compared to \$3.2 billion in the same period in 1995.

Rough diamond exports for the 10-month period jumped 16% to total \$660m., compared to \$570m. last year.

Jennifer Friedlin

Yishai sets aside NIS 1m. for Dimona training courses: Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai has set aside NIS 1 million for vocational training courses in Dimona. The move, yesterday, follows Yishai's visit to the Negev town last week, when he met former employees of Dimona Textile.

David Harris

The Kibbutz Industries Association holds its annual conference at Kibbutz Ramat Rachel today. Among the subjects under discussion are international activity and joint ventures. Keynote speakers include Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, and Federation of Kibbutz Movements secretary-general Edna Solodar.

David Harris

Hospital course looks ahead to independence: A course to prepare medical manpower for the eventual incorporation of public hospitals will open today at the Israel Management Center in Tel Aviv. The course is meant for health administrators to make their institutions competitive and able to run independently. The Netanyahu Commission Report on the Health System in the late 1980s recommended that all the public hospitals be turned into non-profit corporations, but this has not been carried out due to opposition by the unions and reluctance in the Health Ministry. The academic director of the 81-hour course is Dr. Haim Reuveni, a researcher in health system management and policy at Ben-Gurion University.

Judy Siegel

Meridor speaks out against tax increases

DAVID HARRIS

FINANCE Minister Dan Meridor strongly indicated that there will not be tax increases in the near future during his remarks to the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday.

"Whoever proposes to solve economic problems by increasing taxes or the exchange rate is choosing easy solutions," Meridor said.

Meridor warned the MKs against increasing the tax burden while there is an economic slowdown and exports are dwindling.

"This needs copious discussion before we rush to put forward proposals," he said.

Meridor rejected what he called "the popular idea" of reducing government contributions to employees' National Insurance Institute payments. This is the last thing Israel needs at the moment, he said.

The minister also launched a strong counterattack at critics of the government's fiscal policy.

"Anyone who thinks correct microeconomic decisions are the only solution is, by talking nonsense, bringing the economy to crisis," Meridor said. "He is lying to himself and to the population."

He said four factors are currently threatening the economy: the failure of the coalition parties to reach agreement on the budget cuts needed; the

legitimate claims of parties demanding promises made to them be upheld; the requirements of the defense forces; and basic budget estimates for anticipated revenues in 1997, which are apparently too high.

Meridor also used the opportunity to clarify the Treasury's position on the Brodet Report on reforming the capital markets. The truncated team of three, currently examining the issue of taxing short- and mid-term savings to encourage longer-term investments, has yet to reach agreement, despite the deadline for receipt of its recommendations last week.

Meridor said proposals will not be put before the cabinet until agreement is reached on what form they should take.

Following his Knesset appearance, Meridor joined Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Interior Minister Eli Suissa and local authority representatives to discuss the financial problems facing municipalities. It was agreed to establish a joint team comprising Treasury, Interior, Ministry and municipality officials to examine short- and long-term (up to the year 2000) solutions. The team has three weeks to conclude its deliberations. The group will also look for ways to reduce local authorities' expenditures.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
French franc (200,000)	4.825	5.075	5.450
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.825	5.075	5.450
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	4.825	5.075	5.450
Yen (10 million yen)	4.825	5.075	5.450

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.11.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8163	3.8787	3.16	3.22	3.8477
U.S. dollar	2.1222	2.2746	1.81	1.87	2.2480
German mark	2.1287	2.1831	2.09	2.20	2.1488
French franc	5.2758	5.3620	5.18	5.44	5.3183
Japanese yen (100)	0.6900	0.6402	0.61	0.65	0.6347
Dutch florin	2.6490	2.6940	2.78	2.84	2.8708
Swiss franc	1.8987	1.9394	1.96	1.98	1.9148
Spanish peseta	2.5404	2.5814	2.48	2.52	2.5809
Swedish krona	0.4888	0.4685	0.48	0.51	0.4925
Norwegian krone	0.5095	0.5137	0.49	0.53	0.5098
British pound	0.5538	0.5629	0.54	0.58	0.5885
Portuguese escudo	0.7029	0.7214	0.68	0.74	0.7181
Canadian dollar	2.4134	2.4824	2.37	2.49	2.4396
Australian dollar	2.5379	2.5789	2.49	2.62	2.5571
S. African rand	0.6553	0.6854	0.62	0.70	0.6819
Belgian franc (10)	1.0355	1.0394	1.01	1.07	1.0417
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0254	3.0742	2.97	3.12	3.0506
Italian lire (1000)	2.1197	2.1839	2.08	2.18	2.1879
Jordanian dinar	4.4800	4.7900	4.48	4.79	4.8298
Egyptian pound	0.8200	1.0000	0.82	1.00	1.0294
ECU	4.0251	4.1480	—	—	4.1185
Irish punt	5.2801	5.3683	5.18	5.44	5.3884
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5273	2.5881	2.48	2.61	2.5499

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Stocks shrug off budget deficit to end steady

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



SHARE prices were little changed yesterday as investors ignored what the Finance Ministry called a narrow-expected October budget deficit and trading remained at a trickle.

London shares decline as political concerns offset BT-MCI merger

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - The British stock market shed half a percent yesterday as political worries and weak futures prices trampled enthusiasm about the multi-billion pound merger between British Telecom and MCI Communications.

FRANKFURT - German shares ended down 11.39 points, or 0.42 percent, at 2,671.86. In post-bourse trade the DAX was up 8.54 at 2,678.73.

SYDNEY - Hopes of an interest rate cut hoisted Australian shares higher by the close although trade remained lackluster as players awaited the result of the Reserve Bank's deliberations today.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended higher yesterday in slow trade and light volume as the market grew cautious ahead of US presidential and congressional elections today.

TOKYO - The Tokyo stock market was closed for a holiday yesterday, but trading will resume on Tuesday.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares dipped as a late wave of futures-related selling hit the index and caused it to finish at its day lows.

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks were mixed yesterday, with investors favoring blue-chip over more speculative shares in cautious trading before today's elections.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 19.75 points to close at 6,041.68.

Broader measures were mixed, with technology and other more volatile shares losing ground.

Stocks drew some support from the bond market, where the yield on the 30-year treasury - a key determinant of borrowing costs - fell to 6.65 percent from Friday's 6.68 percent.

But many traders continued to limit their exposure to any potential market jolts from Tuesday's elections. Analysts have expressed concern about inflationary government spending if the Democrats take control of Congress in addition to the White House.

The highlight of the lackluster session was British Telecom's planned \$20.8 billion merger with MCI Communications, announced Sunday after a flurry of market speculation on Friday.

MCI shares, which jumped 5% on Friday, edged higher as the Nasdaq's most active issue. British Telecom's American depositary shares soared in active NYSE trading, but AT and T and Sprint slumped amid concerns about tough competition from their big new rival.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 5-to-4 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,343 up, 1,069 down and 867 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 391.05 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 463.78 million in the previous session.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 2.95 to 706.72, and the NYSE's composite index rose 1.39 to 375.07.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 1.27 to 1,220.51, and the American Stock Exchange's market value index fell 0.82 to 571.76.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table of Tel Aviv stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and Market Index. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and AFTERNOON/MORNING indices.

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Volume. Includes sections for NEW YORK, EUROPE, ASIA, and OCEANIA.

Table of US commodities with columns for Name, Last, and Change.

Table of London metal futures with columns for Name, Last, and Change.

Key Representative Rates table showing U.S. Dollar, German mark, and other rates.

NEW STOCK MARKET INDEXES table showing DJ Industrial, NYSE Composite, and other indices.

New York market indexes table showing DJ Industrial, NYSE Composite, and other indices.

Other stock market indexes table showing FTSE 100, Nikkei, and other international indices.

Israeli stocks in US table showing NYSE/AMEX/NASDAQ/OTC prices for various Israeli companies.

NYSE/AMEX/NASDAQ/OTC table showing prices for various US stocks.

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Other stock market indexes table showing FTSE 100, Nikkei, and other international indices.

Adams, Pollock may join SA tour

DURBAN (Reuters) - South Africa has "kept the door open" for unorthodox wrist-spinner Paul Adams and fast bowler Shaun Pollock to be added to the squad touring India.

Convener of selectors Peter Pollock said yesterday: "We're very happy with the way things have gone in India in the Titan Cup (triangular tournament) and we'll stick with the 14 guys that are there."

"But we don't want to close the door on Paul Adams and Shaun Pollock. We reserve the right, as far as those two are concerned, to add them to the team if they satisfy fitness requirements over the next few weeks."

Pollock is still recovering from an operation on his left ankle which curtailed his first season with Warwickshire in English county cricket, while Adams has been suffering from shin splints and a groin strain.

Peter Pollock said that neither player was fit enough for selection at the moment but that Adams was closer to full match fitness.

"Paul will play again for Western Province against Boland in two weeks time and, if he comes through there, the likelihood is very strong that we'll add him to the team."

South Africa plays India in the Titan Cup limited overs final in Bombay tomorrow, then continues its schedule with three Tests against India and three three-day games.



LAST DETAIL - South African bowler Allan Donald examines the pitch ahead of tomorrow's match with India in Bombay. (Reuters)

Windies lose tour opener

Brian Lara was upstaged by a savage display of power hitting from Australia's former pace bowler Brendon Julian as West Indies lost its opening tour match yesterday in Lilac Hill.

Lara opened his account in Australia with a fluent 66 in a total of 256 for nine from 50 its overs but it was not enough to prevent his side from slipping to a three-wicket defeat against the

Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI

It was a mildly embarrassing result for West Indies against a side fielding three retired Test fast bowlers - compatriot Michael Holding and Australia's Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson.

After reducing the Chairman's XI to 95 for six in the 25th over, West Indies appeared poised for a comfortable victory.

But Julian transformed the match

by smashing six sixes and seven fours in an unbeaten 96 from only 52 balls to sweep his side to success at 258 for seven with exactly eight overs to spare.

Australian former Test batsman Tom Moody contributed a responsible 66 as the pair added a whirlwind 148 for the seventh wicket in just 15 overs.

They were particularly harsh on

the off-spin of Carl Hooper and the slow left-arm bowling of Jimmy Adams, who between them conceded 79 runs in eight overs.

Fast bowler Ian Bishop provided some consolation for West Indies by taking four for 44 off 10 overs, including Australia's former captain Allan Border for seven.

West Indies plays Western Australia in Perth later this week

in one-day and three-day matches as part of its preparation for the first Test in Brisbane, starting on November 22.

Border praised Lara's innings, which included one six and eight fours from 65 balls, saying: "He seems to be in really good form and I enjoyed his batting."

"If Brian scores runs like this, Australia will have a tough time in the Test series."

Novotna wins 2nd straight

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Czech Jana Novotna won her second consecutive tournament Sunday, beating Jennifer Capriati 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the final of the \$450,000 Ameritech Cup tournament.

Novotna, No. 5 in the world and coming off a win at Zurich, beat Capriati for the third time this year and then apologized after the match for negative statements she made about the 20-year-old American after beating her in Essen last February.

"I made some negative or critical comments about Jennifer's comeback," Novotna said. "I wanted to give her credit."

"I've heard some things," Capriati said. "I just look at the ball. That's all I care about. I just

play the ball."

Capriati, who upset No. 1 Monica Seles in the semifinals round, was appearing in her first final since the Canadian Open in 1993. Her last win was at Sydney earlier that year. She played in one tournament in 1994 and then missed two years because of personal problems and injuries.

"Whenever I was down, I produced some good serves and that's what made the difference," Novotna said.

It was the third tournament win this year for Novotna, who defeated 16-year-old Swiss sensation Martina Hingis in the semifinals.

She also won at Madrid as well as Zurich this year, and could move up to No. 4 in the rankings.

Marathon winner inspired by paesano

NEW YORK (Reuters) - In the small Italian town where Giacomo Leone grew up, youngsters had few choices of athletic activity.

There was no athletic field and no organized soccer league. But on TV, there was the sight of compatriot Orlando Pizzolato winning the New York City Marathon in 1984 and 1985.

It was not difficult for the teenager to decide on running as his sport. "A lot of the boys in my town ran," said Leone, who grew up in Franca Villa Fontana, located in the Puglia region in the heel of the boot in southern Italy.

After watching Pizzolato on TV, Leone said, he started imagining himself training in fast marathon times. And on Sunday he reached the peak of his career, winning the New York City Marathon.

This was only the fifth marathon for Leone, and his first victory. And even he admits to surprise that he was able to upset the vaunted African contingent.

He could have opted for a race in Venice last month, a marathon in which he finished second last year. But after suffering a stress fracture in February and being left off the Italian Olympic team, Leone decided to test himself against the strongest field possible.

Leone, who did not join the lead pack until the second half of the race, drew encouragement from the throngs of people lined along the city streets who were shouting, "Go Italia, go Italia!"

Injuries trouble Scharf as Israel begins training for Cyprus

ORILEWIS

THE national soccer team began training for the World Cup qualifier against Cyprus yesterday and coach Shlomo Scharf discovered he has a few key injury worries which must be overcome if the team is to be at full strength for Sunday's match in Limassol (kickoff 18:00).

Stand-in captain Tal Banin did not train yesterday and has been ordered to rest for four days by team doctor Marc Rosnowsky, after the midfielder suffered a twisted knee in weekend National League action while playing for Hapoel Haifa.

Banin, whose influential leadership as well as his skills as a

defender and in midfield are a vital part of Israel's game, is expected to be fit by the weekend and will head for Cyprus on Thursday.

By contrast, Rommen Harazi who is unlikely to play in the match, did train yesterday and said he felt confident his fitness would improve sufficiently to give him a chance of playing.

Harazi has been suffering from a recurring ankle complaint which struck again just after the 1-1 draw with Russia last month.

Central defender Gadi Brumer is also not fully fit. He has an ankle problem, but it is not expected to

keep him out of the side. The team will continue training today and tomorrow before completing preparations at the Cypriot port city over the weekend.

The under-21 side, which leads its European Championship qualifying group, is injury free in the meantime and will also travel to Cyprus on Thursday. Its match kicks off in Nicosia earlier on Sunday.

In other news, the IFA confirmed yesterday an international friendly with Germany will be held here at the end of February.

Despite efforts to persuade him to change his mind, Meir Nimni decided to quit Zefirim Holon.

Three power-play goals lift Blackhawks past Oilers; Hull scores pair in Blues' win

CHICAGO (AP) - Tony Amonte, Denis Savard and Eric Daze each scored power-play goals, lifting the Chicago Blackhawks to a 4-2 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Sunday.

Alexei Zhamnov scored the fourth goal for the Blackhawks, who entered the game ranked 22nd in the league in power-play conversions.

Chicago had scored just five goals in 57 extra-man opportunities this season, and had squandered 10 straight chances before Sunday's breakout.

Blues 6, Stars 3
Brett Hull scored twice and rookie Harry York got his third goal in three games as host St. Louis ended a four-game losing streak.

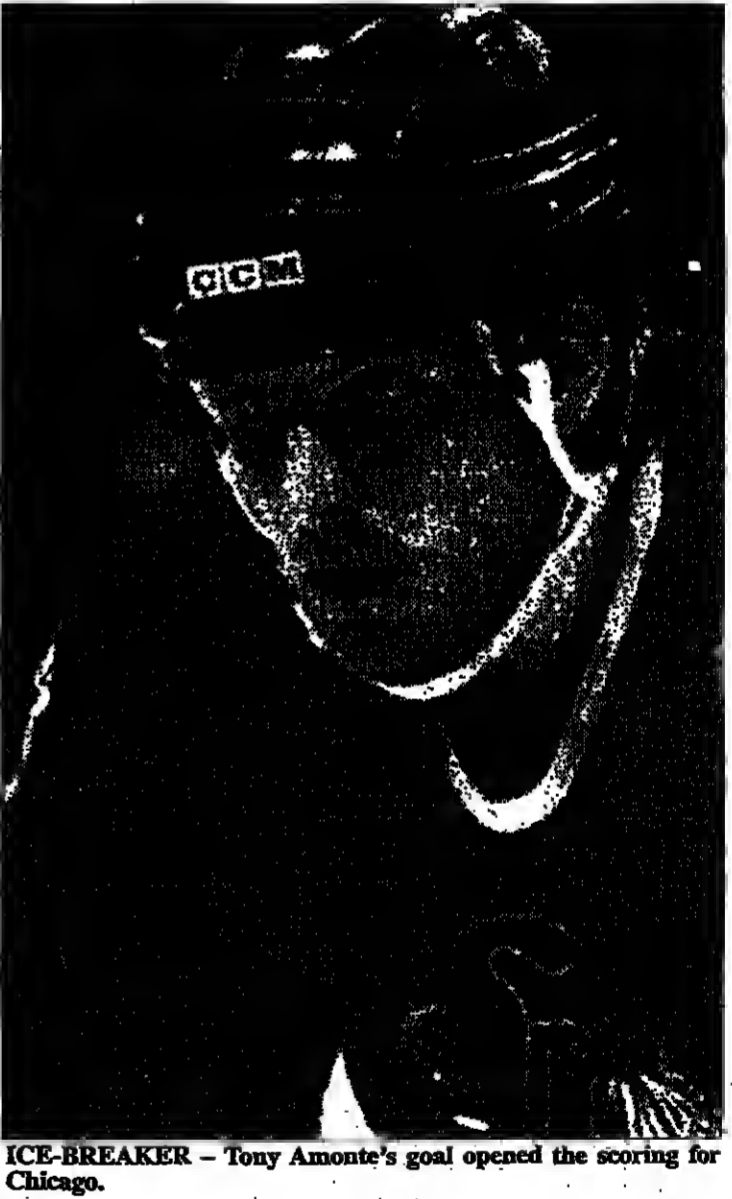
Canadiens 4, Coyotes 4
Vincent Damphousse deflected a slap shot by Stephane Quintal with 9:24 left in the third period, lifting visiting Montreal into a tie with Phoenix.

It was the second straight overtime game in as many NHL games for 20-year-old Montreal goaltender Jose Theodore, who stopped 46 shots as the Coyotes outshot the Canadiens 50-31.

Stephane Richer, Mark Recchi and Martin Rucinsky also scored for Montreal. Dallas Drake had two goals, Keith Tkachuk had a goal and assist, and Craig Janney scored the goal that gave Phoenix its only lead of the night with 15:18 left in the third period.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Team	W	L	T	Pts
Atlantic Division				
Florida	6	1	4	20
Rangers	6	5	3	15
Philadelphia	7	7	0	14
New Jersey	5	5	1	17
Tampa Bay	5	5	1	17
Washington	7	7	0	10
Islanders	2	5	4	8
Northeast Division				
Buffalo	6	1	13	34
Hartford	6	2	12	32
Ottawa	3	4	5	11
Montreal	4	6	8	11
Boston	4	5	10	34
Pittsburgh	2	8	6	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Team	W	L	T	Pts
Central Division				
Dallas	9	4	0	18
Chicago	6	5	2	18
Detroit	7	6	3	16
Toronto	6	6	0	12
St. Louis	6	6	0	12
Phoenix	5	6	2	12
Pacific Division				
Colorado	8	4	3	19
Calgary	7	7	1	15
San Jose	6	6	3	15
Vancouver	7	5	0	14
Edmonton	7	7	0	14
Los Angeles	6	6	2	14
Anaheim	2	9	3	7



ICE-BREAKER - Tony Amonte's goal opened the scoring for Chicago.

Maradona did own dope tests

ROME (AP) - Saying he still was a cocaine addict, Argentine soccer star Diego Armando Maradona admitted he used to do his own private dope tests before matches to avoid playing when he risked showing positive.

"I have been doing my own dope tests for years. If I was positive I avoided going on the field the following Sunday," Maradona was quoted as saying in an interview published yesterday with the Rome daily *La Repubblica*.

The former captain of the Argentina national team, interviewed at his home in Buenos Aires, disclosed his anti-doping tricks as he commented on recent allegations that his urine samples were switched with those of another player after a match last August to avoid his disqualification.

Maradona, said he has been taking cocaine since 1983.

"I tried to stop several times, uselessly. But I keep on fighting," Maradona has been recently visiting a Swiss clinic for anti-drug treatment.

Maradona, considered one of the greatest soccer players ever, has had a long history of drug problems - and drug-related suspensions from soccer.

In 1991 he was banned for 15 months for testing positive for cocaine after a league match, when he played with Napoli. In 1994 he received another 15-month suspension after failing a dope test at the World Cup.

British Olympic chiefs back sports academy

LONDON (Reuters) - British Olympic chiefs, worried by the country's dwindling sporting status, yesterday announced their backing for a £175-million plan for a national sports academy in Heyford, central England.

British Olympic Association chairman Craig Reedie, pledged an annual £1m funding for the academy if it is built in Heyford.

The proposal is one of 25 bids received and involves transforming part of an old US Air Force base into a center for sports including table tennis, rugby, sprinting and volleyball.

Former foreign secretary Douglas Hurd said, "Sports excellence is one of Britain's major assets in the world."

Beardsley symbolizes Newcastle title drive

NEWCASTLE (Reuters) - The confidence, exuberance and determination of Peter Beardsley's play in his 700th league and cup match symbolized everything about Newcastle United's challenge for the English title on Sunday.

Newcastle won a bruising, passionate Tyne-Tees derby against old rivals Middlesbrough 3-1 to regain its place at the top of the Premier League, displacing Arsenal who held the position for two weeks.

Beardsley's performance personified all that Newcastle - and for that matter their coach Kevin Keegan - represents: hard work, flair, style and, clearly this season, some mental toughness and maturity.

Beardsley, the Newcastle skipper, hustled in midfield and worked tirelessly in front of goal. He had the confidence to take, and score from, a penalty kick after missing from the spot last week, and scored a goal of typically sweet invention, dancing through the defense, then placing a low shot wide of the keeper to virtually ensure Newcastle's win.

"After missing the penalty against Ferencvaros on Tuesday the gaffer never said a word about the penalty, not even 'unlucky'. He never said anything, he just left it to me," said Beardsley.

"A lot of fans asked what would happen if we got another one, but I've always said I'll take it. I wasn't sure I would score, but luckily enough it went in."

The 35-year-old former England forward may be in the annals of his career but he is

hoping to keep playing at the top level until he is 40. On Sunday's evidence, you would bet on him lasting until he was 50.

Keegan, whose side pulsates to the same kind of rhythm he himself displayed as a player, was full of praise for his skipper, and said he was surprised some Newcastle fans were beginning to question Beardsley's durability.

"I saw a letter in the paper today saying he was finished. Well, I'd like about another five players who are finished if that's the case," he said.

"His enthusiasm has, and always will be, incredible, and always worth a place in your side."

Beardsley, who won two championship medals with Liverpool, opened the scoring with the 40th-minute penalty and made it 2-0 after 69 minutes when he jinked through the Middlesbrough defense and scored from close range.

Robert Lee added Newcastle's third with his first goal for 18 matches, and Middlesbrough replied through Mikkel Beck in the 88th minute.

There were 11 different countries represented in the two teams assembled for around £65 million, and the match was marked with little cameo conflicts.

Middlesbrough's Brazilian Emerson and Newcastle's Colombian Faustino Asprilla continually tangled, Newcastle's Belgian

Phillipe Albert also had a running feud with Middlesbrough's flamboyant Italian Fabrizio Ravanelli.

But if Beardsley symbolized Newcastle's drive for a title it last won in 1927, Albert and Juninho, Middlesbrough's diminutive forward, symbolized the current standing between the two clubs.

They had an altercation in the second half with Albert towering almost 30 cms over the Brazilian. With Newcastle in first place and Middlesbrough in 15th after a poor recent run, that image left a lasting impression of Newcastle's superiority.

Keegan also played with three men at the back, as he did against Ferencvaros last week, with David Batty patrolling in front of them and winger Keith Gillespie dropping into right-back when needed.

"It's the first time I've played that but it won't be the last, though I don't know when you'll next see it," said Keegan.

No-one at St James' Park is getting carried away with Newcastle being top of the league - they remember all too vividly what happened last season when they led the table for almost eight months, then finished second to Manchester United.

But Keegan was pleased afterwards. "We didn't touch the heights of Ferencvaros (4-0) or Manchester United (5-0), but this was a derby and called for other qualities and strengths. We have proved we can battle."

In Premier League action last night, Everton and Coventry played to a 1-1 draw.

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